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LIONS HELP GIVE VAL NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Community group's biggest-ever fundraising campaign hits £15,000 target to buy specially-adapted wheelchair

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A WOMAN who has been paralysed from the waist down for five years is now enjoying a new lease of life - thanks to a specially-adapted wheelchair bought for her following a community fundraising campaign.

Val Thompson was previously featured in the Champion when she successfully contested a decision to withdraw her funded care package.

The 62-year-old from Newburgh had broken her spine following a fall downstairs in 2013 leaving her unable to stand, wheelchair-bound and with weakness in the upper body.

Now though, thanks to her new wheelchair, she can stand and talk to people face-to-face, as well as performing simple everyday tasks that most people take for granted, like operating light switches!

And her grandchildren have affectionately named her 'Transformer nan' after the robot movie-inspired toys!

Fundraising for the £15,000 to buy the special wheelchair was co-ordinated by the Douglas Valley Lions Club, which covers the Lathom and Newburgh area, after they were approached by one of Val's carers.

Her medical support team had advised that Val would benefit greatly from having a chair that could lift her into a standing position.

Benefits

Other benefits include a reduction in pressure sores and improved heart and body functions, muscle tone and joint capability, as well as a boost to self-esteem.

John Tamlin who led the project for Douglas Valley Lions Club, said: "Val had tried out a similar wheelchair at Southport Hospital and had experienced the benefits but of course the cost of the machine was prohibitive and was not standard NHS issue.

"When a request for help was brought to the Lions we looked into it and decided to raise the £15,000 needed to purchase the equipment. It was the largest single fundraising target we'd ever attempted so we didn't know how long it would take. But we did know that we wanted to raise the money quickly as the longer it took the longer Val would have to remain in her normal wheelchair."

Val tries out her new wheelchair watched by Iain McNair of Southport Lions, John Tamlin of Douglas Valley Lions and John Allwright of West Lancs Freemasons.

John says the response was "amazing" and the target was speedily achieved through various events including a sportsman's dinner, race night, crowdfunding, individual gifts and "significant" donations by Southport Lions Club and the West Lancs Association of Freemasons.

And after being given full training, Val gave a demonstration of her new wheelchair's capabilities for members of the groups that helped to raise the funds.

John Tamlin added: "It was amazing to see the joy in Val's face as she showed the machine's capability, She also offered her heartfelt thanks to everyone involved with the project. She can't believe the difference it has already made to her life."

A grateful Val posted on a community website: "My grandchildren now say they have a Transformer for a nana. Just looking at their faces when I stood for the first time brought tears to my eyes as they have never known me standing."

Grateful

And she told the Champion: "The wheelchair has made a massive difference to my life. I am now able to carry out small tasks in the house like turning on lights, closing curtains or reaching things in the fridge for instance.

"I have also been out on my own for the first time in five years and it felt wonderful! Having the standing facility has strengthened my legs already and they are feeling stronger day by day.

"I will be forever grateful to the Lions, the Masons and all the kind donations made to enable me to have this wonderful wheelchair. And I must say a personal thank-you to John Tamlin from the Douglas Valley Lions who worked endlessly to make this happen for me. He has been such a support to both myself and my husband John."

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

Couple renew vows at festival

Teenagers' Lourdes pilgrimage

CROSSWORD
See Page 32

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Lego comp win was a fair cop!

A LEGO building competition organised by the Chapel Gallery was won by St Anne's RC Primary pupil Matthew Hart.

The six-year-old won £100 for his imaginative creation of a combined police station and jail.

The Brick Creations competition was held at the gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk in conjunction with Brick Flicks, an exhibition of iconic movie posters recreated by renowned Legobricks artist Warren Elsmore.

Wedding vow renewal among highlights of music festival!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A MARRIED couple renewing their vows on stage was just one of the unusual highlights of this year's 15th Bickerstock Music Festival!

Ian and Sara Cassidy, who first met at the festival 10 years ago, renewed their vows at a special service at the event.

The festival, on Bickerstaffe parish field, saw nearly 40 acts play over two stages on Saturday and Sunday, as well as an open mic slot.

Amanda Bennett, a member of the organising committee, said that the festival seems to get "exponentially bigger" every year and about 250 people camped over at the site.

She said: "Paul Draper started it on the back of a trailer in a car park and it's now grown to what somebody said is 'a proper festival' - which I thought was rather nice.

"The demographic has changed a lot as well, so the atmosphere was just wonderful. It's a really nice family fun day, it was just fabulous. We had so many positive comments."

One unscheduled 'highlight' occurred when a band failed to turn up and 'Attacked By Wasps' - an impromptu group of various Bickerstock crew - took their place and received a lot of positive feedback about their performance.

Performers, organisers and volunteers on the opening day of the 2018 Bickerstock Music Festival.

Amanda added: "A big thanks to all the bands who played for free and to all the festival-goers who really made a tremendous job of keeping everywhere tidy and making it such a pleasant atmosphere.

"Thanks also to the volunteers. We had some really good people and a lot more new volunteers."

Money raised from the event will go towards next year's festival and also to local charities chosen by the public.

Nominations suggesting which local charities should benefit from funds raised by Bickerstock can be emailed to: bickerstocksecretary@gmail.com until the end of October.

Ian and Sara Cassidy renew their vows 10 years after meeting at Bickerstock.

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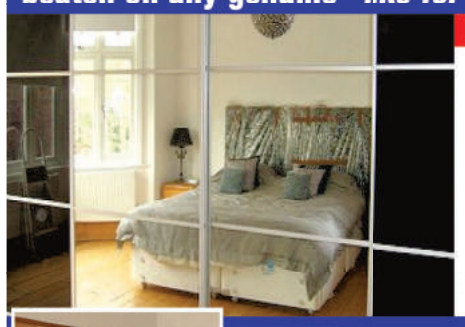

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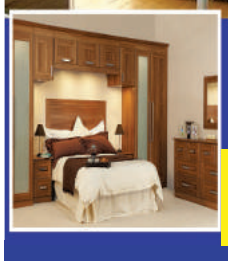

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Pensioner awarded £15k out of court settlement for botched dental treatment

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A PENSIONER from West Lancashire has been awarded £15,000 in compensation from his local dentist after a botched root canal treatment left him with permanent nerve damage.

Raymond Conway, who lives in Halsall, was awarded the money from Dr Edward Scott Atkin, formerly of Old Mill Lane Dental Practice in Formby.

A dentist who subsequently examined Mr Conway believes his jaw was accidentally injected with sodium hypochlorite, a bleach used during root canal treatment.

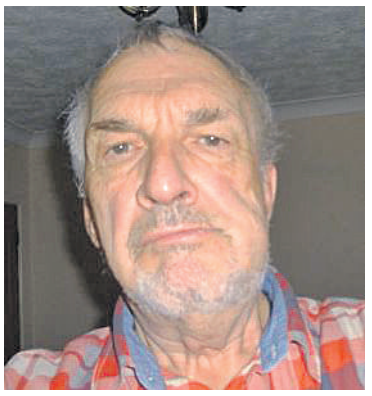
Mr Conway says the treatment was excruciatingly painful at the time and he now has permanent numbness around his mouth.

The 77-year-old said he made an appointment with Dr Atkin for toothache when he was recommended for root canal treatment.

"I thought root canal treatment was relatively routine but I found it horrifically painful and felt a burning sensation in my jaw during the treatment," he said.

"I even passed out because of the pain. I'd never felt anything like it. I ended up in the foetal position in the dentist's chair, I was in such a bad way.

"But Dr Atkin just implied I'd be fine and it was nothing to worry about."



This photo shows the swelling to the left side of Raymond Conway's jaw following his botched root canal treatment.

Two weeks later Mr Conway was still experiencing pain in his tooth and also swelling and numbness around his lower lip and gum, despite Dr Atkin saying the symptoms would subside, so he decided to see a different dentist.

The second dentist said it was highly likely the numbness had been caused by an injection of sodium hypochlorite into Mr Conway's jaw. Mr Conway's tooth was also so badly damaged it had to be extracted the following day.

The numbness in his lower left chin and lip never subsided.

Mr Conway contacted specialist dental negligence solicitors Dental Law Partnership and analysis of his dental records revealed that Dr Atkin had not carried out root canal treatment to the proper standard.

Mr Conway said the lasting nerve damage in his mouth has had a profound effect.

He said: "It's almost ruined one of my favourite hobbies. I now struggle to play my clarinet and saxophone properly. I've been playing music for years and use it to relax. To have had that taken away from me is even worse than what I experienced in the dentist's chair."

The claim for negligence against Dr Atkin was commenced in 2015 and ended earlier this year when he paid a total of £15,000 in an out of court settlement.

The dentist did not admit liability.

Sadie Cartwright of The Dental Law Partnership commented: "The distress and pain our client experienced was completely unnecessary. If the dentist had carried out adequate treatment in the first place, all of his problems could have been avoided. We hope the compensation he receives goes some way towards compensating him for the permanent nerve injury he now lives with, and towards paying for the additional treatment needed."

A spokesperson for Old Mill Lane Dental Practice said: "Dr Atkin is no longer a dentist at our practice.

"Patient care is our priority and we would like to apologise for Mr Conway's experience."

Teenagers from West Lancs who joined with more than 400 others from the region for a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Caring teenagers take part in UK's largest youth pilgrimage to Lourdes

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LOCAL teenagers have taken part in the UK's largest youth pilgrimage to Lourdes to help the sick and disabled.

Youngsters from West Lancs who attend St Bede's Catholic High School in Ormskirk joined with more than 400 others from throughout the region to travel by coach and ferry to the Pyrenees, as part of the annual youth pilgrimage organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool for a week of faith, service and friendship.

The young pilgrims journeyed via Dover in a nine-coach cavalcade which took around 26 hours to reach its destination, with two coaches from Lancashire, including the young people from West Lancs.

Once at Lourdes the teenagers spent a week helping and serving the sick and sensory impaired pilgrims who had travelled from the North West by plane.

For many of the young people, the work involved rising at 6am to help in the hospital, while others pushed the sick and disabled in wheelchairs to the different places of devotion and to Mass.

Kathy Charnock, from Parbold, who volunteered to help with the pilgrimage, said the days were often long with duties not finishing until 10pm. "It is wonderful to see such selfless giving by the young people, especially in today's climate where there is much negativity towards young people," she said.

More than 1,500 pilgrims made the journey to Lourdes this year as part of the annual Liverpool Archdiocesan pilgrimage.

Kathy said that one young person commented that the week had given them so much more confidence, allowing them the opportunity to grow and develop whilst the interaction with the sick pilgrims had been inspiring, as they had shown such courage despite often being in pain and discomfort.

After the trip one of the young pilgrims from West Lancs, Matthew, 16, wrote on social media: "Lourdes is unlike any other place I've been to. It's such a unique experience."

As part of the preparation for the pilgrimage, the young people, organised various fundraising events to cover the £520 travel costs they each had to pay. They were supported in this by schools and local businesses.

Kathy added: "It's fantastic to see so many young people united in faith, and giving of their time in service and friendship to others. We would like to thank everyone who supported us before and during the pilgrimage."

Organisers of Ormskirk MotorFest are calling for people to help out as marshals at this year's event.

MotorFest organisers looking to recruit volunteer marshals

THE popular Ormskirk MotorFest is set to return on Sunday, August 26 and organisers are looking for volunteer marshals to join in the fun and help make the event go smoothly.

Thousands of people are expected to enjoy the free motoring extravaganza, which is one of the North-West's biggest free family events.

More than 300 classic and competition vehicles from all eras of motoring will be on display in Coronation Park and on Ormskirk town centre streets.

Organisers are looking for volunteer marshals to help with the parade laps which are due to take place in the afternoon, so are required from 12.30pm.

The MotorFest is a free event organised by Aintree Circuit Club and supported by West Lancashire Borough Council.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "Volunteer marshals play a key role in making the Ormskirk MotorFest memorable for everyone and they also have a lot of fun at the event."

And Mike Ashcroft, Aintree Circuit Club chairman, commented: "Volunteering to be a marshal is a great way to become involved in the MotorFest. So please sign up as soon as you can to become part of the team making this fantastic event a reality."

Marshals will be on duty to assist vehicles to get out onto the parade route and to be positioned at locations around the course to ensure the cavalcade goes smoothly.

For the parades, marshals will need to report to the marshals' centre by 12.30pm as they will need to register first and attend a marshals' briefing before going out on post for 2pm and finishing around 5pm.

To volunteer to be a marshal and for information about the occasion, visit www.ormskirkmotorfest.com by Monday, August 20. The online registration form that people need to complete is in the registrations section of the website.

Opportunity

Marshals attending will receive an expenses payment of £5 towards travel, and refreshments will be provided. You must be signed on by 12.30pm.

Meanwhile, owners of competition cars can still enter their vehicles for their general MotorFest event by emailing Mike Ashcroft at mja@ormskirkmotorfest.com.

Owners of particularly high-quality vehicles can put them forward for the MotorFest's Concours de Elegance competition, by applying in advance through websitewww.ormskirkmotorfest.com.

Councillor Hodson added: "With many thousands of visitors expected to come to Ormskirk for the MotorFest, we hope that Town Centre businesses will take advantage of this great opportunity and open up on MotorFest day."

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Historic aircraft to perform Ringtail monument fly-past

AN historic Royal Navy war plane will be making a fly past over Burscough's HMS Ringtail monument in the memorial garden outside Booths cafe on Ringtail Retail Park on Saturday, August 11at 2.15pm.

Local historian Lawrence Critchley says the aircraft, Fairey Swordfish 1 W5856, which will be flying over Burscough on the same day it is taking part in the Blackpool Air Show, is the oldest surviving Swordfish in the world being built in 1941.

It served with the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean for three years before being transferred to the Canadian Navy in 1944.

The Fairey Swordfish was one of the most successful aircraft in the history of naval warfare. Between 1939 and 1945. Swordfish saw active service worldwide, pursuing the enemy afloat and ashore in every theatre of war, between the Atlantic and Indian Ocean and Arctic Circle.

The Fairey Swordfish 1 W5856.

County cabinet to consider new strategy to improve fitness levels

A NEW strategy to encourage people to cycle and walk more often will be considered by Lancashire County Council's cabinet tomorrow (Thursday, August 9).

The ambitious plan, called Actively Moving Forward, sets out to

- Double the number of people cycling.
- Increase the amount that people walk by 10%. Particularly by increasing the percentage of children aged between five and 10 who usually walk to and from school.
- Reduce levels of physical inactivity across Lancashire so they fall below the national average.

It is aimed to achieve these targets by 2028.

The strategy has been put together by the county council, in partnership with Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council, following a consultation with local people and other partners.

The authority's head of planning and environment, Andrew Mullaney, said: "It's crucial we do all we can to encourage people to be more physically active. Making it easier for people to walk and cycle brings many benefits, from improving health and wellbeing, reducing road congestion and improving local air quality, to providing access to job opportunities and supporting economic growth.

"This strategy would build on the range of high-quality walking and cycling routes, which already offer excellent access to the county's towns and cities and beautiful rural landscape.

"Some of the actions set out in the strategy include making use of existing walking and cycling facilities, investing in further improvements, improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians, and changing people's behaviour to make walking and cycling their natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey."

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Council wins £10K to spend on town's Christmas lights

ORMSKIRK has been given an early Christmas present after West Lancs Council won £10,000 worth of Christmas lights to decorate the town.

The authority submitted a detailed entry in the fourth Annual Blachere Illumination Christmas Light Competition, held by Revive & Thrive Magazine, with the top prize being £10,000 worth of Christmas lights for the winning town.

Council chiefs viewed it as a great opportunity to showcase Ormskirk as a great place to live, work, study and visit and all the great work of local community groups, businesses, the Chapel Gallery and Edge Hill University, who make up the Ormskirk Town Centre Management Group.

And after being selected as a finalist, a team of representatives from the borough were given the opportunity to present their case to a panel of judges, all of whom had extensive place management experience.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran: "This is a great win for the town."

Despite tough competition, with councils from all over the UK taking part, Ormskirk was announced as the winner. The council says the new lights will make a great addition to the town's festive atmosphere.

Councillor Ian Moran, council leader and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, said: "This is a great win for everyone in Ormskirk and to come first ahead of other great places demonstrates how much we have to offer for local families and visitors.

"We are also working closely with the Concourse Centre in Skelmersdale on their plans for their Christmas lights switch-on event, and are looking forward to further improvements once the first phase of the new town centre scheme is completed."

Ronnie Brown, managing director of Blachere Illumination, added: "The quality of the presentations was extremely high and the passion that the entrants demonstrated for their towns was very impressive."

This year the Christmas Light Switch On in Ormskirk is being planned for Sunday November 25. Interested traders can apply at www.discoverormskirk.com/trade.

Builder's donation hits the target for archery club

BURSCOUGH Archery Club has received funding to train two new coaches - courtesy of homebuilder, Taylor Wimpey North West.

The club, which is located near to Taylor Wimpey's Briars Lock development in the village, runs a range of classes for all ages, encouraging outdoor activity amongst local people.

The donation will help the club to meet the growing demand they have for weekend and summer activities for both adults and children.

Club secretary and coach, Roy Samples, said: "Thanks to this generous donation we will be able to run more sessions and involve more people in the club and introduce them to archery.

"A new archery for beginners course will run from early September.

"It's great to see Taylor Wimpey giving back to the local community and I would like to say a huge thank-you for helping to encourage people into the sport and help them stay active."

Vital activity

Stuart Craig, head of sales at Taylor Wimpey North West, added: "We're more than happy to help fund training for the new coaches at the Burscough Archers.

"The work they do to encourage outdoor activity is vital for the area and helps to bring the community together.

"Our Briars Lock development is close by to the club and lots of our residents will now be able to take advantage of the services that the archery club can offer thanks to the newly-trained coaches."

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Health commissioners defend borough's out of hours GP provision

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs health service commissioners have defended their GP out of hours provision after being challenged by Rosie Cooper.

Recent reports into the provision of extended hours GP practices revealed what appeared to be a 'postcode lottery' across Lancashire with 90 per of surgeries in Darwen and 50 per cent in Preston offering full extended service, but just 10 per cent of surgeries in West Lancs doing so.

As a result, the MP said she had written to the West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for a full explanation.

Rosie Cooper said: "Residents are being let down by West Lancashire CCG's failure to reach Government targets of 90 to 100 per cent therefore I have written to the chief officer asking for clarification on why there is, what appears to be, a postcode lottery about the access patients have to extended hours.

"I have asked for a detailed explanation about what is being done to address this situation, especially as so many constituents complain to me about waiting weeks for GP appointments, while some cannot get one at all."

Rosie Cooper

However, CCG says an extended service has been available to all residents across West Lancashire since 2016 and that it will soon be publicising the service to make people more aware of it.

A spokesperson for NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "The responsibility to offer the extended access programme sits with CCGs and not individual GP practices. Therefore, there is no expectation for each practice to offer this service.

"Some CCGs have chosen to ask GP practices to deliver this service individually. However in West Lancashire we have opted for a one provider model which ensures access for all our residents in West Lancashire across the whole week.

"As of October 2018 there is a target set by NHS England to ensure that the service covers and is accessible to the whole population. In West Lancashire we have already been offering this service since November 2016, initially starting with a weekend programme which has built over time and is now offered six days a week from 6.30 to 8pm Monday to Thursday; 10am to 4pm on Saturday; and 10am to 2pm on Sunday.

"The services were also initially delivered on Friday evenings as well, however uptake of these appointments was poor.

"Our service covers all three neighbourhoods in West Lancashire - Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and the Northern Parishes - and is accessible to 100 per cent of our population.

"1,091 new appointments are offered in West Lancashire every week and while 92 per cent of them are currently being booked each week, a small amount of appointments are usually still available most weeks.

"If residents would like to use the service, full details as to which practices offer the service and when, are available on the CCG's website and appointments are made simply by calling your own GP practice and making an appointment as you would do normally."

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Youngster's 'keep our wood tidy' plea

A PRIMARY school pupil and her aunt are calling on the people of Ormskirk to care more for their environment and stop throwing litter on the ground after being shocked by what they found in a popular local wood.

Shirley Taylor and her niece Grace, a pupil at Ormskirk CE Primary and a member of Ormskirk 3rd Brownies, were walking the 10-year-old's pet dogs in Ruff Wood when the youngster commented on the mess.

Young Grace Taylor with some of the rubbish she collected in Ruff Wood.

"Grace was upset at the amount of litter," said Shirley. "She has learned about the environment in the Brownies and said the next time we went to the wood we had to remember to take a picker and some bin bags."

And on their next trip the pair picked up two bin liners full of crisp wrappers, plastic bottles, cans and snap bags.

"We were quite shocked that in just half-an-hour we managed to pick up so much rubbish. It's just depressing because there are bins there.

"I don't know why people can carry their food and drinks there but can't carry the empties to a bin.

"It is such a special place people are in danger of ruining it."

Campaigners' anger over green light for fracking site

Government accused of 'riding roughshod' over local democracy

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LOCAL anti-fracking campaigners have labelled localism a "sham" after the final go-ahead was given for fracking to take place at Little Plumpton.

The decision makes Lancashire the first place in the country to be mined for shale gas in a horizontal well and has angered campaigners, including those battling to prevent fracking at Altcar Moss in West Lancashire.

In granting hydraulic fracturing consent for Cuadrilla's first horizontal shale gas exploration well at its Preston New Road site, energy and clean growth minister, Claire Perry, said she was satisfied that all technical requirements had been met and that Cuadrilla and its associated investors had demonstrated the financial resilience to complete the project.

She said: "Shale gas has the potential to be a new domestic energy source, further enhancing our energy security and helping us with our continued transition to a lower-carbon economy. It also has the capacity to deliver substantial economic benefits, both nationally and locally, as well as through the creation of well paid, high-quality jobs.

"We already have an excellent, long-standing reputation for safe oil and gas exploration. Our world class regulations will ensure that shale exploration will maintain robust environmental standards and meet the expectations of local communities."

Disastrous

However, a spokesperson for Frack Free Lancashire said: "We are saddened that the Government has granted permission for Cuadrilla to frack regardless of the opposition of local councils, MPs and population. They have now proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that localism is a sham."

And Halsall borough councillor Maureen Mills and John Wilkinson, both from Moss Alliance, which is campaigning against a proposed similar fracking operation at Altcar Moss by Aurora Energy Resources, issued a joint statement, saying: "It is notable that the permission given to Cuadrilla to frack the first well at Preston New Road was given at the 11th hour on the very day that Parliament adjourned for the summer recess. This is a tactic this Government is very fond of.

"The Government's intention is to take these extremely important and potentially disastrous decisions away from local authorities and, basically, ride roughshod over local democracy."

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Watchdogs issue timeshare scam alert

Warning to beware of cold callers offering to negotiate release from holiday property agreements - for a fee

COUNTY council watchdogs are warning about a timeshare scam targeting people who signed up to schemes in the past and are desperate to get out of them.

The authority's Trading Standards officers say they are receiving complaints from people who have lost thousands of pounds in 'legal fees' to cold callers claiming to be able to release them from their timeshare, but who deliver nothing in return.

Deputy leader of the council, County Councillor Albert Atkinson, said: "Timeshare schemes were once a lot more popular than they are now and many people signed up to them in the 1980s and 1990s, sometimes after being subjected to high-pressure sales techniques and without reading the small print.

"These people are now older and their financial situation has changed, some may even be in poor health and unable to make use of their timeshare property.

"This has left them vulnerable to companies which phone out of the blue claiming their so-called legal experts can negotiate a way out of the timeshare on their behalf. These companies charge a large fee and are generally unsuccessful.

"Cases have been reported where the money lost to these so-called legal experts is actually more than would have been needed simply to exit the agreement with the timeshare company using the clause in the contract.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson

"If you are an existing timeshare owner looking to end your agreement, always speak to your own timeshare company and carefully check the grounds on which they will allow you to do so before considering your next step. Many timeshare companies do have criteria under which they will allow members to exit their agreement."

Trading Standards are also warning people to be on their guard if offered the opportunity to buy into a timeshare scheme over the holiday season.

People are often approached by salespeople offering an incentive to attend a presentation or seminar, which is nothing more than a lengthy sales pitch.

A more recent development is holidaymakers in the UK being sold a share in a 'lodge'.

Cllr. Atkinson added: "People are rightly wary of timeshares, but they continue in different forms and the important thing is to take advice before entering into any agreement or contract and not be pressured into signing up on the spot.

"This applies not only to the purchase, but also the resale of timeshare contracts, as well as offers of percentage shares in companies offering holiday accommodation.

"Under EU law you should be provided with a right of cancellation, giving you time to think about the terms and conditions and whether the product suits you. So, if you're worried you have signed up to something you don't want, don't hesitate to take advice."

For help and advice, or to report a suspected scam, contact Citizens Advice on 03454 04 05 06, or Action Fraud Contact Centre on 0300 123 2050.

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More disruption to Northern Rail services

Passengers hit by fresh batch of cancellations after staff 'made themselves unavailable to work'

Report by **Henry James**

PASSENGERS using Northern Rail services had to endure yet more disruption last Sunday when staff "made themselves unavailable to work."

The company was the subject of criticism when it cut more than 9,000 rail services after timetable changes resulted in chaos in the spring but a total of 75% of the cancelled services were reinstated last week.

However, there was more misery on Sunday when yet more services were slashed because the under-fire company were short of staff.

Locally, Liverpool was the worst hit. The Liverpool to Manchester Airport service was subject to a full cancellation, affecting 30 services; while the Wigan North Western-Liverpool route saw 50% of services cancelled, 29 in total.

The company did still operate one hourly service between Lime Street and Wigan NW.

As part of their contract Northern Rail staff don't have to work Sundays, as long as they give the company seven days notice. It appears so many staff gave the company notice that they were forced to cancel the Sunday services across the network.

Sunday saw more cancellations on Northern Rail services in the region.

Affected

On announcing the cancellations, a spokesman for Northern, said: "Unfortunately we have so far had to cancel around 80 services across our network and it is likely more will be cancelled as we continue to plan our services.

"Routes which will see cancellations have been chosen carefully to make best use of resources and to minimise the impact on customers. On each route customers will either have other rail options via Northern and other operators or will have the provision of rail replacement transport.

"The areas most affected are in Liverpool, Lancashire and Greater Manchester and we would like to apologise to customers whose plans and journeys will be disrupted.

"Some Northern staff have made themselves unavailable for work on Sunday and operational teams are currently working hard to make the best use of available staff and bring others in where possible. Rail replacement road transport will also be used where possible to help try to keep Northern customers on the move."

The spokesman advised anyone planning on travelling to 'plan carefully, check for cancellations and visit the Northern website or National Rail Enquiries for the most up-to-date information.'

Anyone whose journey is delayed by 30 minutes or more can apply for compensation via Delay Repay.

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Police commissioner seeks public's views on crime priorities

Online survey launched and 'Let's Talk Policing' events to be held, including at Skelmersdale

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw is asking residents for their views on policing as pressures on the service grow and resources continue to reduce.

The commissioner has launched an online survey and announced a series of roadshow events to ask residents' views on priorities around crime and policing.

These will continue to inform his Police and Crime Plan which sets out how the police and community safety partners work together to keep Lancashire safe.

Mr Grunshaw said: "Year-on-year we have less money to deliver policing in Lancashire as a result of growing demand and rising costs due to inflation. With the Government not providing any extra resources but passing the burden onto council tax payers, I want to get a clear view from the public about their priorities and how safe they feel.

"I know people will have concerns about recorded crime going up and police having to respond to more non-crime issues as cuts to other services like mental health continue to bite.

"Having made savings of £84m since 2010 with a further £18m to find by 2022, Lancashire's police service will continue to have to adapt. With fewer officers and resources it is even more important to ensure that our plans meet operational needs but also public priorities.

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw is seeking the public's views on priorities around crime and policing in the county.

"The chief constable and I have a shared ambition for the constabulary to remain as one of the top forces in the country and to be recognised as an outstanding service. Listening to people's views is an important part of this process."

The online survey will run until Monday, September 10.

In addition, a series of Let's Talk Policing events are taking place across the county including at the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale on Thursday, August 23 from 10am to noon.

● ***Commissioner's funding rethink call to minister - Page 19.***

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Steam railway on track for annual gala weekend

RAILWAY buffs will get the chance to 'let off steam' in the nicest possible way when the West Lancashire Light Railway in Station Road, Hesketh Bank stages its annual Summer Steam Gala Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, August 11 and 12.

Organisers say all available locomotives will be in action on both days from 11.30am to 4.30pm and there will be opportunities for visitors to take part in 'Drive a Diesel' sessions.

Other attractions are expected to include visiting steam rollers and traction engines, children's fairground games and rides, a fairground organ, model railways and Meccano and other exhibits.

A vintage bus offering rides into nearby villages will also be on site. Free car parking will be available and light refreshments will be on sale.

For information about ticket prices and any other information contact 01772 815881.

MP calls for borough schools to encourage students to take part in Auschwitz Project

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is supporting the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project' by encouraging schools in the borough to promote the opportunity to their students.

The project is a carefully designed educational programme for students to attend in order to learn about pre-war experiences; life in the Holocaust first-hand from a survivor; and the opportunity to visit the former Auschwitz concentration camp.

It will start on Monday, October 29 with a seminar at which students will meet a Holocaust survivor and witness his experiences.

This will be followed by a visit to the site of the concentration camp on Wednesday, November 7.

A follow-up seminar on Sunday, November 11 will give students an opportunity to express their views and reflect on their experience.

Rosie Cooper said: "I actively recommend any West Lancashire students to consider this unique opportunity to visit an eye-opening testament to our history.

Impression

"Previously I have visited Auschwitz-Birkenau with school pupils from West Lancashire as part of an educational visit, which left a deep and lasting impression on me."

Anyone wishing to get involved with the programme is asked to contact Anita Parmar, head of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project', on 0207 222 4761 or by email at anita.parmar@het.org.uk.

Report outlines possible cost-savings on county's road gritting operation

Improved technology and more accurate weather forecasts could cut number of unnecessary call-outs without compromising safety - claim

MEMBERS of Lancashire County Council's cabinet will hear how improved technology could be used to more accurately decide when the county's roads need to be gritted, potentially leading to significant savings.

A report to be presented to the cabinet tomorrow (Thursday, August 9) will outline how more accurate forecasts and improved monitoring technology allow highway teams to predict with a high degree of certainty when road temperatures will fall near freezing.

The county's highways teams monitor the weather throughout the winter to ensure the roads are gritted whenever a freeze is forecast. A safety margin is built into the decision-making process to take account of any variation between weather forecasts and actual road surface temperatures.

Current policy is to grit the roads when temperatures are due to fall to 1 degree Celsius or below with the cabinet to consider a proposal to reduce this to 0.5C.

The report outlines how more reliable weather forecasts and accurate roadside monitoring stations mean the lower margin of error could be safely introduced.

Results of a study into the council's winter gritting operation over the past two years has found that 894 individual routes were treated when temperatures actually stayed above freezing.

The county council's gritting fleet treated nearly 900 individual routes when temperatures stayed above freezing over the past two years, a study has found.

Adopting the lower threshold would have saved around £220,000, reduced salt usage by 3,600 tonnes, and reduced downtime by ensuring staff involved in the gritting operation overnight were available for other daytime duties.

The report says that the recommendation to adopt the 0.5C threshold would still allow for any errors in the forecast, and that the council's forecast provider would alert highways officers if it changed for the worse.

A review of practice used by 12 other councils found that some use the same 1C intervention level as Lancashire while others only send their gritters out when temperatures are forecast to reach zero.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "The decision on whether to send out the gritters is taken by experienced staff according to the most accurate information available on local weather conditions, as well as data from roadside monitoring equipment around the county.

"This method is very well developed, allowing us to differentiate between conditions on each of 45 routes, so that we only grit those that we need to. Our climate means conditions are often marginal, with road temperatures due to drop near zero at some point over the night, which is why we build in a small margin of error.

"I will ask cabinet to carefully consider this proposal as officers' advice is that we could reduce this from 1C to 0.5C without compromising safety, while making significant savings in cost and resources."

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Pupils at Our Lady and All Saints receive their award from *live*simply assessor, Justine Silcock with Pam Collier and Ged Edwards from CAFOD looking on.

Simply wonderful!

Primary school only second in country to win special eco award

A WEST Lancashire primary school is only the second in the country to receive an award for commitment to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities.

Pupils at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Primary in Parbold were recognised for their efforts in the *live*simply award organised by the international development charity, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

For the past year, the school's eco club have been meeting regularly to implement changes across the school community, including completing an energy audit, planting trees and encouraging the use of bikes and scooters.

The school has also donated harvest produce to locals suffering illness and, during advent, collected essential items for local refugees.

Adele Connell, a teacher at the school in Brandreth Drive, said: "We are very honoured to receive the *live*simply award.

"We would like to thank all the staff, children and their families for the part they played in helping us to become a school which can live simply and sustainably in solidarity with others. We hope to continue to build on our success and continue to live simply."

CAFOD's local representative in Parbold, Ged Edwards, added: "Well done to all of the children and staff at Our Lady and All Saints Primary School for their wonderful achievement. They have been working hard all year to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities.

"To be only the second primary school in the country to have received this award is a great commitment and evidence that their efforts have paid off."

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Nominations wanted for 'volunteers' MBE'

LORD-Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth is urging people across the county to nominate volunteer groups in their area for the 2019 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Known as 'the volunteers' MBE', the deadline for nominations for the prestigious award - which recognises exceptional contributions made to local communities - is Friday, September 14.

Mrs Jo Darbyshire, deputy Lieutenant and chair of the Lancashire Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Advisory Panel, said: "Lancashire is extremely proud of the 55 groups who have won the award since 2002.

"The members in these groups number thousands and the people they help many thousands more.

"They are the unsung heroes of our county and deserve our praise and thanks for the incredible job they do.

"A prestigious national honour such as the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service not only thanks and recognises volunteers, but can prove invaluable in so many ways to the ongoing success of the organisation.

Exceptional

"If you benefit from the activities of a group or you know of a group of exceptional volunteers, please take a little bit of time to nominate them for this very special honour."

In the 16 years since the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was created by Her Majesty to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002 more than 1,000 groups across the UK have been recipients.

For details of how to nominate and to download a nomination form in pdf or word format, visit https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/.

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

Open Exhibition is unveiled to public

More than 200 works by artists from all over the UK on display at Chapel Gallery

THIS year's prestigious Lancashire Open Exhibition, hosted by West Lancs Council's Chapel Gallery, has been unveiled to the public.

More than 350 artworks were considered for selection for the annual exhibition, submitted by artists from across the UK, with 203 now exhibited for members of the public to enjoy.

Run by the borough council, the gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk, will host the Open Exhibition until Wednesday, September 19.

The exhibition is a celebration of talent, from accomplished amateur through to professional, and gives visitors the chance to see a variety of inspiring works created by talented individuals in a wide range of media.

And for anyone interested in purchasing real artworks, rather than mass-produced prints, it is a great way to source original pieces to suit all budgets as pieces range from small-scale watercolours, prints and photography, to large-scale contemporary oil paintings, 3D works and textiles.

All the works were judged by guest selectors, Tracey Eastham and Martyn Lucas, who are both established artists, curators and academics.

First prize of £800 was won by John Angus with his Portrait E2, screenprint.

Second prize of £400 was shared by joint winners Katherine Dereli with Wendy, oil on canvas and Kathryn Poole with The Earth was Disturbed at His Grave II, pen and ink drawing.

And third prize (£200) went to Carole Dawber with Victoria Park in textile.

The student prize, £150, was won by Ali Barker with Fugue (Synaesthesia 130), painting on draped canvas.

Several works also received commendations.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "The Open is one of the gallery's most popular exhibitions, where there is something for everyone to enjoy. It also offers an excellent opportunity for any would-be art collectors as the artworks can be purchased at very reasonable prices or through the Own Art Scheme, an interest-free loan organised through Arts Council England."

Joint second prize winner Kathryn Poole pictured with the Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney

Visitors to the exhibition can also vote for their own favourite to be awarded the People's Prize. All those who vote will be in with a chance to win a £50 cash prize.

The gallery, which also has a cafe and craft shop, is open from 10am to 4.30pm, Tuesday to Saturday and admission is free. For more information visit www.chapelgallery.org.uk; email chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk; or call 01695 571328.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Councillors should be ashamed of approving solar farm at historic site

WE always assumed West Lancs Council had a fair planning system, how wrong we have been.

It seems the solar application at Lathom was a 'done deal' from the start. No matter how many objections the residents sent in it was not going to change the Labour councillors' decision.

A Labour councillor said it was 99% going through. That cannot be right, we all have the right to protest and be heard.

The developers, Lightsource BP once again stated about all the so-called community involvement and the 720 leaflets they supposedly distributed. Complete nonsense, a very few people in Hall Lane got a leaflet, where the others went we have no idea.

They stated there were far more supporting letters than objections, once again a complete nonsense.

The Skelmersdale Veterans sent in a petition with more than 400 names - the developer failed to mention those - so, along with the many objections sent in, it was a vast majority against the application.

Lightsource BP state it was all fine over the ecology report, once again a complete nonsense. The whole report consisted of them looking for bird droppings on a flooded field! The report was full of inaccuracies.

The planning committee meeting held on July 26 was a fiasco. The veterans took their Union Jacks and were told they could not take them in!

Councillor Pope gave a truly excellent speech and received a rousing round of applause.

Then two Labour councillors spoke and got their facts completely wrong. They obviously had not read anything on the website regarding this application.

After the meeting we had a discussion with the veterans who were extremely angry with the Labour councillors as they seemed to have no regard for the significance of the site.

This is a very historical site that cared for the war horses and there is a total belief among locals that there are many war horse graves on the site.

Lightsource BP have done nothing to prove otherwise.

The Labour councillors never gave the war horses a mention. They forget who put them in office and the electorate can easily get them out.

They should all hang their heads in shame.

Historical Lathom Residents Group.

Residents' views were totally disregarded

WHAT a complete stitch-up between West Lancs Council, the Labour councillors and now the ex Mayor of West Lancs, approving the solar application at Lathom.

They all totally disregarded the residents, the veterans, various historical societies and five parish councils. This application was going to be passed from day one, it now seems.

We should have a fair planning system, it seems WLBC are changing the rules to suit themselves and it now seems we have a very unfair planning system.

I doubt few if any of the Labour councillors ever went to see the site. The application was rushed through and the two Labour councillors who spoke hadn't got a clue as they got their facts wrong!

NSG, now Japanese-owned, are the only ones to benefit from this monstrosity.

I thought Labour stood up for 'the little people' but now it seems they are supporting global organisations and big business. I have been a Labour voter all my life but never again. They seem to forget they need voters like me.

I would like to give a big thank-you to the Skelmersdale Veterans who supported the residents throughout the campaign and sent us a petition with over 400 names, and after all that they couldn't even take the Union Jack into the council chamber.

Also, a big thank-you to Mr Eddie Pope for his very emotive speech at the meeting.

Joan Wilson, by email.

PICTURE of the week

Keith Rudd, driving his Model T Ford Civa, chauffeurs the bride to the 'wedding'of Mr and Mrs Parbulele - one of the highlights of last weekend's annual Parbold Ukulele Festival. Picture by Martyn Snape.

No local people want this plant sited here

I WENT to the meeting about this solar plant on Green Belt land and the committee didn't even talk about it apart from two councillors who told us the truth about it.

I spoke to a Labour councillor in Ormskirk about this application and he said with absolute conviction that it was 95% certain it would be granted. How did he know, I have to ask myself?

Not one person in Lathom sent in letters supporting this. All the letters of support were sent from NSG workers. No one in Lathom wants this, there was a petition with hundreds of names against this thing.

There are no exceptional circumstances to site a solar plant on a historic part of Lathom.

Frank Baybutt, by email.

Fuming over 'loans to landlords' suggestion

AS a small local business struggling to find premises that fit our needs, as are many others in our local area, I couldn't be any angrier and appalled at the considerations stated by West Lancs Council to provide loans to landlords with empty student properties to turn them back into family homes.

As I see it these private landlords will take the loan, refurbish the property, sell it and possibly pay the loan back to the council. They will also have great pleasure in making massive profits on the sale of the properties.

Why does West Lancs Council think that a private landlord will sell the property as affordable housing? Why not just charge them council tax on the properties? I'm sure that by implementing this it would instigate, quite quickly, the refurbishment of empty properties and lots of 'for sale' boards being erected.

Then maybe West Lancs Council would be able to invest the £800K by supporting small local businesses who are struggling to find small units fit for purpose.

G. Reade, by email

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ **PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.**

Regeneration and investment is what's needed not a town council

I AM writing in response to letter headed 'Residents invited to sign up to campaign for a stand-alone Skelmersdale Town Council' (Champion, July 25).

A town council for Skelmersdale is neither needed or wanted.

The so-called 'Skelmersdale Independence Movement' is calling for this change but the reality is that a Skelmersdale Town Council would just create a needless third tier of Local Government and would only be a talking shop.

A town council would mean electing another 40 councillors to represent residents across the whole of Skelmersdale - residents who are already being well represented by Skelmersdale councillors on West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.

A town council would also have to be funded and paid for by local residents. In calling for this change the Skelmersdale Independence Movement would be asking every household in Skelmersdale to pay up to another £60 per year in council tax. This extra burden would have little impact on local services and much of the money raised would be needed to run a Skelmersdale Town Council.

What's really needed for Skelmersdale is town centre regeneration and investment. I am therefore delighted that West Lancashire Borough Council has announced some £19 million in funding for phase one of the town centre scheme. Together with plans for a new leisure and well being centre, extensive improvements to the public realm, infrastructure and new homes in the town.

Now that this investment has been announced I hope Skelmersdale Concourse begins to invest in their offer and press ahead with their plans for a new cinema and other retail improvements.

The Skelmersdale Independence Movement should join me in supporting all these plans.

Labour Party Councillor Neil Furey,
Skelmersdale North Ward.

Ormskirk expansion is next best option

PAULA Fletcher (Letters, July 25) is right, Skelmersdale is an ideal location for a new hospital, almost 60 years since it was put on the agenda.

Unfortunately the Government does not meet its original commitments to the New Town, that is why Ormskirk Hospital was greatly developed.

If we can't get a hospital in Skelmersdale then Ormskirk should again be expanded for the reasons of accessability as stated by Paula .

John Cooke, Up Holland

County chiefs urged to start planning for life after Brexit

Councillor fears delay in replacing EU funds will be "devastating" for local communities but cabinet member vows authority will be "fully prepared"

A WEST Lancs-based county councillor is calling for Lancashire County Council chiefs to start planning for life after Brexit.

Councillor Julie Gibson, Labour's shadow cabinet member for economic development, environment and planning, has voiced fears about how the county will replace EU funding when the UK finally leaves.

The Labour and Co-operative Party member for Skelmersdale West said; "Regardless of our personal views on the issue, there is a very real need for the council to start planning for life after Brexit. I recently asked the cabinet member responsible what plans where in place for this and what discussions had started taking place with businesses to plan for post-March 2019 and was concerned to find out that very little work, if any, had been done on this. His response was that he was waiting for national Government to tell him what to do.

"I am particularly concerned about what will replace the EU funding of which Lancashire, through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was allocated some £232 million for the years 2014 to 2020. This funding has benefited a number of businesses in West Lancashire.

"The Government has announced that it is to set up a Brexit delivery board which will look to engage with Local Government about life after Brexit but with just over seven months left before we are set to leave the EU this will be a very tight timescale and is a case of too little to late.

"As someone who has worked within European-funded regeneration programmes, I know what a vital part this funding has played in revitalising local communities and supporting small and large businesses and how devastating it could be if there is any delay in replacing these funds.

County Councillor Julie Gibson

"I will be calling on Lancashire County Council to engage as a matter of urgency with this board to avoid being left behind and to provide reassurance and certainty to communities and businesses within the Lancashire economy."

County Councillor Michael Green, cabinet member for economic development, environment and planning, responded: "Lancashire County Council has started work on post-Brexit planning and will continue to do so over the next few months, as the picture as to what a post-Brexit Lancashire means becomes clearer.

"Lancashire has many strengths to build on, not least of which is its international trading reputation and critical national infrastructure.

" The extent of our considerations at this stage include, but are not limited to:- the economy (including business confidence, workforce, skills, investment & trade); funding streams; transportation and the impact Brexit will have on our EU-facing ports; and legal considerations.

Importance

"We are also monitoring the emerging landscape via regular 'Brexit Monitor' documentation which is pulled together by the North West regional research consortium.

"I agree with Cllr. Gibson on the importance of funding to support the growth of the Lancashire economy. However, I would remind her that it was the incoming Conservative administration who made extra funding available last year for the excellent 'Boost' Growth Hub and Marketing Lancashire – which her party refused to support.

"The residents of West Lancashire, and indeed every district in the county, voted to leave the European Union. They can rest assured that the county council and its partners will be fully prepared for the impacts of Brexit as far as they are known over the next few months, and we will work positively to secure a bright future for Lancashire businesses."

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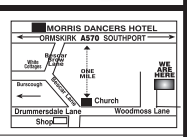

Bone marrow cancer support group celebrate 21st birthday

MEMBERS of the West Lancs and Merseyside Myeloma Support Group held a garden party in Ainsdale to help celebrate the cancer charity's 'coming of age'!

The group says 2018 is a big year for Myeloma UK as it marks 21 years of providing support, advancing treatment through research and improving care for bone marrow cancer patients and their families.

Special guest, Elaine Deeming, lead cancer nurse at Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust hospitals, was invited to cut the cake at the garden party which was attended by friends and family of the support group and raised £400.

A spokesperson for the group said: "The group meets once a month in Southport and is a great opportunity to meet patients, family members and carers in an informal and friendly environment and to learn more about living with myeloma.

"The funds will help Myeloma UK to raise awareness among local GPs and nurses of myeloma which has one of the highest rates of delay in diagnosis.

Treatments

"Myeloma UK is the only organisation in the country dealing exclusively with myeloma. It helps myeloma patients live longer and with a better quality of life by accelerating the discovery, development and access to new treatments, while helping patients and their families cope with everything a diagnosis brings."

One of the members of the group, David Lovelady, from Ormskirk, who received two bone marrow stem cell transplants for myeloma 17 years ago, hopes to continue raising money for the charity by hiring out the 21 sign he made for their party.

Members of the West Lancs and Merseyside Myeloma Support Group pictured at their garden party to celebrate 21 years of supporting bone marrow cancer patients and their families.

He said: "The sign is 4ft high and made of plywood and for £10 will be available for hire to anybody having a 21st - or a 1st, 2nd or 12th - birthday or anniversary.

"All money raised will go to pay the expenses for a myeloma expert from Myeloma UK to come from Edinburgh and give a talk for all local GPs about the symptoms to look for to help with early diagnosis."

Anyone interested in hiring the sign can contact David by email at ormskirk-dave@aim.com or by ringing 07803 167 909.

For more information about West Lancs and Merseyside Myeloma Support Group contact David Simister by email at david@ainsdale.demon.co.uk or by phone on 07515 668 762.

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Minister urged to reconsider funding for fracking protests

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw has met with the Policing and the Fire Service Minister, Nick Hurd, to discuss pressures on the service and to urge him to reconsider special grant funding to cover the costs of policing the ongoing fracking protests.

During the MP's visit to constabulary headquarters Mr Grunshaw took the opportunity to outline the impact a lack of Government funding was having on policing in the county at a time when the force is managing not just an increase in crime, but also non-crime demand including mental health and social care.

Since January 2017 Lancashire Constabulary has been policing daily protests at the Preston New Road site to ensure the safety of protesters, road users and staff or contractors entering and leaving the site.

Clive Grunshaw has been lobbying the Government for months over its decision to award Lancashire Constabulary just £1.4 million towards the £6.8m cost of policing the fracking site and it was pointing out to the minister that this left the force to find the £5.4 million difference from existing budgets, impacting the front line.

Mr Grunshaw (right) with Policing Minister, Nick Hurd

Positive

Mr Grunshaw said: "I welcomed the opportunity to meet with Mr Hurd and to talk with him about the changing and challenging nature of police demand and to tell him first-hand about the impact of austerity.

"I also relayed to him my disappointment over residents in Lancashire being left to foot the bill for the fracking operation when the decision to allow fracking in the county was made by Westminster and when European Cup finals and even Donald Trump's visit have all seen a much higher proportion of the costs covered, if not all of them.

"On behalf of Lancashire Constabulary and local residents I urged him to consider carefully future requests for support towards operational costs such as fracking to ensure that our police aren't left short-changed as a result of their work keeping people safe at the site.

"It was a positive meeting and I was encouraged by his understanding of the pressures on the service and his appreciation of all the hard work of officers and staff."

Mr Hurd spent the day speaking with front-line officers at Preston before visiting force headquarters at Hutton where he met with Chief Constable Andy Rhodes and was given a tour of the new forensic services academy.

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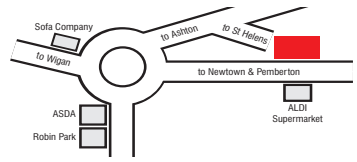

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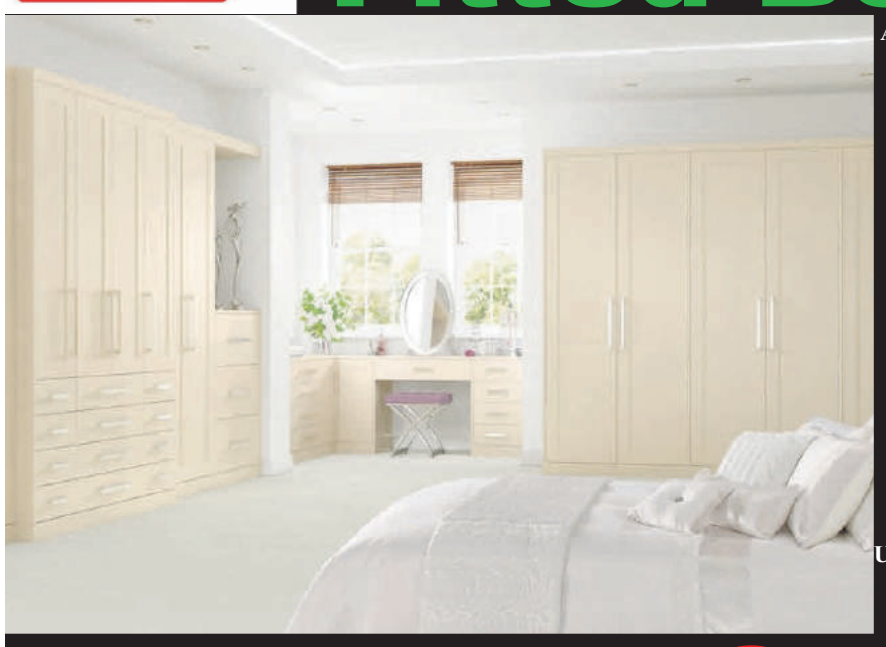

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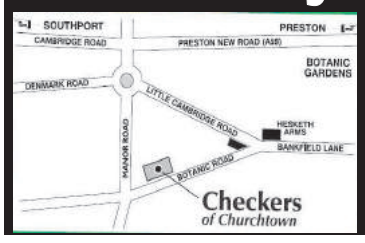

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Business answer service company launches app to mark birthday

A WEST Lancs company that answers calls for other businesses when they aren't able to has celebrated its fifth birthday by launching its first app.

Face For Business, based at Martland Mill in Burscough, uses bespoke technology and software to offer a telephone answering service to businesses

Customers simply divert calls as and when they want and they are answered in the customer's company's name, with a message forwarded on straight away.

Now thanks to the new app, customers can now access all calls and messages on the go and can even let their Face For Business personal assistants know their daily whereabouts straight from their mobile phone.

Since opening in 2013 the FFB has notched up some notable achievements, including being chosen as one of 100 businesses nationally to be profiled in the run-up to Small Business Saturday and winning West Lancs Council's SME Apprenticeship Employer of the Year award.

Staff at Face for Business celebrate the company's fifth birthday.

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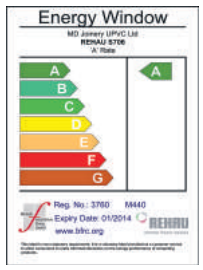

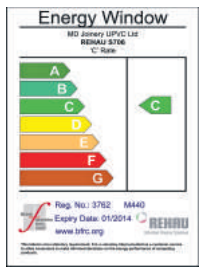

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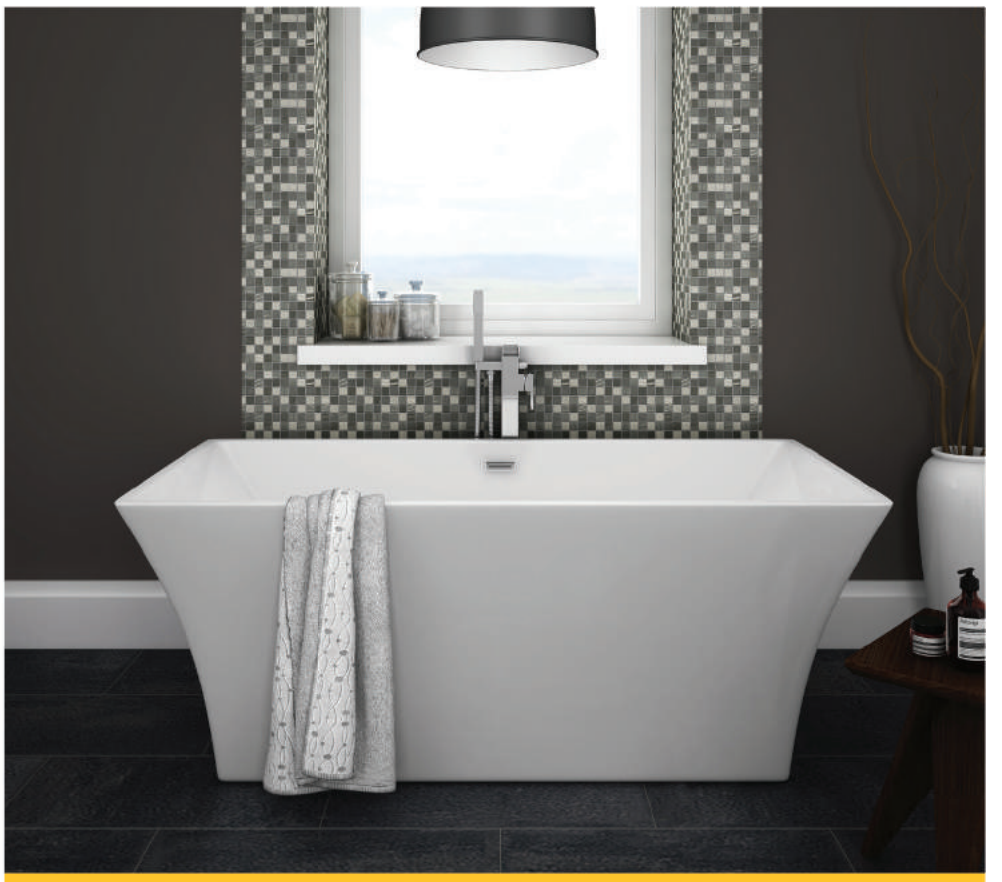

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The only way we should 'shoot' polar bears is with a camera!

AM I simply becoming a Grumpy Old Man, or do some niggles great and small upset others as well as myself?

I don't know - and to be honest, I don't really care that much either - which probably makes my irritations that much more valid, in a perverse sort of way.

Anyway, a couple of news stories from a few days ago managed to press the 'grumpy' button. First there was the lovely story of the female tiger at Whipsnade Zoo along with a charming photograph of the cubs at play outside for the first time.

Apparently mum, Naya, and her mate Botzman were taking part in a European breeding programme for endangered species. So far, so very charming.

And then the niggle had to be put in. Apparently, Naya and Botzman are Amur tigers. Never heard of them? Neither have I. Apparently until recently these splendid animals were what we always thought were Siberian tigers. Who changed the name and for what reason (and whom did 'they' ask anyway)?

It's just another 'right on' piece of tomfoolery designed I reckon just to upset me and mar a really uplifting story.

If I were a tiger cub, I know which I would rather be called - Siberian any day of the week!

The second story though was far more upsetting, alike only in that it shows the folly of refusing to leave well enough alone.

A polar bear (how long before they get an Inuit name?) was shot dead in the Svalbard archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole, apparently after attacking a guard escorting tourists off a cruise ship.

Quite why this guard found it necessary to blast this animal in its own habitat was not made clear. I would have thought that if these gawping tourists needed a guard he could better have been supplied with tranquilliser darts.

Please don't misunderstand me. The guard received serious injuries and was 'only doing his job' for which I have no objection.

No, it is the sheer arrogance of humans who seem to think it their right to interfere with wild creatures on their home ground. The shot bear may have been protecting her cubs, or searching for food made increasingly illusive by the actions of humans. By what right do folk with their cameras and armed guards think they should invade what's left of the polar bear's habitat which we as a race are successfully trying to destroy?

If you really want to get close up and personal with a polar bear, by all means do so. Without an armed escort.

Polar bears are an endangered species because of us. If you want to learn more about them, and see how they live in the wild, there are many good TV programmes by people who have the good sense (and equipment) to be able to film in safety - safety for them and for the bears. They shoot them on film, not with high-powered bullets.

But do you know what annoyed me most when I saw this tragic story? Inset with the photo of the dead bear was a picture of a sign deployed nearby. It looks just like a normal road sign, triangular with a red border and a polar bear, white on a black background and a warning below. Somehow, I found this to be truly disgusting. 'Warning, polar bears ahead, take a gun' - or something like that.

Probably the good folk of Svalbard are only too happy to see tourists descend from their cruise liners. And after a good meal aboard and the promise of another when they return, the tourists are no doubt looking forward to poking their noses into bear territory.

Trouble is, apparently the bears themselves see things somewhat differently - and end up being shot for their trouble.

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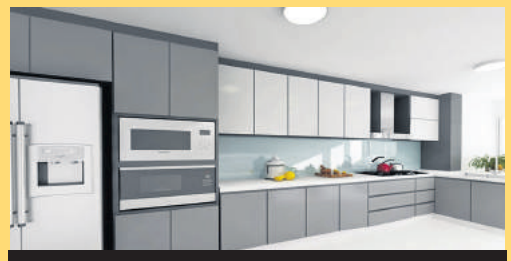

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Guests and staff at the official opening of Hotel Pawsifornia.

Pooch pamper 'hotel' is open for business

A 'LUXURY hotel for dogs' complete with all mod cons has opened on Simonswood Industrial Park, near Bickerstaffe.

The Hotel Pawsifornia has eight rooms, all featuring underfloor heating and individual lighting. There is even a TV lounge where the dogs can relax after a long day of exercise and walks!

A launch event to mark the official opening featured children's entertainment, face painting, canapes, wine and a DJ.

Owners, Annmarie and Julie Graham-Jones, have already opened a dog-friendly-cafe at the site, named Paws4Food and they also provide day care for dogs.

Annmarie said: "The opening day went really well. Lots of people attended, we also took a few hotel bookings and several new recruits are now enjoying day care with us."

Deadline looming for Dementia Friendly Awards nominations

THERE is still time to make nominations for the national 2018 Dementia Friendly Awards before the deadline on Monday, August 20.

The awards recognise, celebrate and promote the inspirational achievements of those uniting to making a real difference to people living with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Society has revealed that a staggering two-and-a-half million people in the UK have united against dementia and become Dementia Friends.

The initiative is a social action movement aiming to change the way people think, act and talk about dementia.

Steve Green from the society said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate individuals, organisations and communities leading and inspiring a change that will transform the lives of people with dementia forever, challenging misunderstandings, changing attitudes and taking action.

"There are a whole range of awards across 10 categories to recognise outstanding work in this area of increasing importance to the whole community, including Inspiring Young Person of the Year; Dementia Friendly Organisation of the Year; and Dementia Friendly Community of the Year.

"Our finalists will be selected and invited to a ceremony in London on Thursday, November 22. "

● To find out more or make a nomination, go to alzheimers.org.uk/dementiafriendlyawards.

Witness appeal after collision

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a collision in Ormskirk on Friday July 27.

Officers were called at 11.05pm after a Ford Fiesta travelling south on Altys Lane collided with a stone wall and a concrete lamppost before landing on its roof in a nearby field. The driver, a 19-year-old-man, was taken to hospital with back injuries.

Sergeant Lee Harris of Lancashire's Road Policing Unit said: "We are working to establish the circumstances surrounding the collision and appeal to anyone who witnessed it, or saw the vehicle in the moments leading up to the collision, to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101 quoting log number 1944 of July 27.

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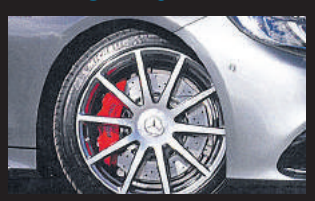

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Budding film-makers urged to enter Parliament competition

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is encouraging local film-makers to enter Parliament's annual 'Film the House' competition.

The competition offers an opportunity for the borough's talented musicians and film-makers to take centre stage and make direct contact with 'movers and shakers' in the two creative industries.

Judged by industry leading lights, it offers glittering prizes provided by sponsors, which last year included mentoring from professionals in the film industry, a private screening of the winners' films for friends and family, and classification of the winning films by the British Board of Film Classification.

As well as a pioneering opportunity to showcase what the UK has to offer, the 'Film the House' competition also raises awareness about the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) to the creative industries.

The closing date for entries is Sunday, September 30.

Rosie Cooper said: "I would urge all local film-makers to enter Film the House. It is an excellent opportunity to celebrate our local talent and, as nominations are judged by industry experts, there is no finer chance for our film-makers to gain exposure."

Categories for the 2018 competition are: Best Short Film (under 16); Best Short Film (16 and over); Best Script (under 16); Best Script (16 and over).

A shortlist will be announced in January and the Awards Ceremony will be held at the House of Commons in April 2019.

For more information go to www.filmthehouse.co.uk.

Young members of Mitch FC pictured at presentation event at Up Holland Labour Club.

Mitch FC celebrate improved campaign

MEMBERS of Mitch FC junior fotball club, which competes in the under-14s section of the Craven Minor League, celebrated an improved campaign when they held their end-of-season trophy presentation at Up Holland Labour Club.

Ethan Marsh took the Manager's Most Improved Player award; Tucker Hallam won the Manager's Player of the Year; Dennis Santos took the Golden Boot with 16 goals; and Alfie Woods and Liam Lewis were joint recipients of the Players' Player of The Year award.

Manager, Danny Johnson, for whom this was his first season in charge, said: "The lads showed a massive improvement this year, scoring 47 goals and winning more games than in the last two years."

The Skelmersdale-based team, who play home games at Blaguegate Lane playing fields, compete in the Craven Minor League from September to May against teams from Southport and Formby. The 18-strong squad train at Blaguegate Lane in the summer and at the JMO in winter.

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Rosie Cooper slams latest 'hammer blow' to local justice

Chorley Magistrates Court to close despite MP's concerns

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper has accused the Government and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service of "diluting" local justice following the announcement of another local magistrates court closure.

The West Lancs MP hit out at the decision to close Chorley Magistrates Court, two years after the Ormskirk court closed its doors for the final time.

She has repeatedly campaigned for justice to remain local, initially successfully seeing off the proposed closure of Ormskirk Magistrates in 2006 before the Government finally pulled the plug 10 years later.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lucy Frazer wrote to Ms Cooper informing her of the decision to press ahead with the closure of Chorley Magistrates' Court - despite the MP's particular concerns, including travel time to court from West Lancashire, and in particular Skelmersdale where she deemed transport links inadequate.

Preston Magistrates Court will now deal with cases which would have been heard at Chorley.

The former Ormskirk Magistrates Court - Rosie Cooper fought its closure but its doors shut for the last time in 2016.

Rosie Cooper said: "The decision to close Ormskirk Magistrates' Court in 2016 was simply the wrong decision and now we see HM Courts and Tribunals continuing on their mission to close local magistrates courts and dilute local justice.

"We know there was a desire within the Ministry of Justice and HM Courts and Tribunals Service to make closures happen as far back as 2006 when they first tried to close Ormskirk.

"These decisions save them money and make it easier for those running the courts. But they are not for the benefit of or in the interests of the residents who should have access to local justice.

"One of the fundamental objections to this proposed closure was the poor availability of public transport to alternative courthouses. A situation that has only worsened given further Government cuts to local authority budgets forcing councils to consider the future of local bus services.

"There is no question this decision is yet another hammer blow to the centuries-old principle of local justice."

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Martin Mere news

Learn a new skill at Martin Mere

Over the autumn and winter, WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is hosting a series of courses aimed at getting you engaged with nature. From September onwards you can take part in courses that help increase your bird identification skills, photography skills and drawing and painting skills as well as giving you an opportunity to meet experts in these fields.

Birdwatching Morning
Join Andy Bunting from in focus to develop your bird identification skills in the field and receive expert advice on using the tools of the trade i.e. guides, binoculars and telescopes.

Wildlife Photography
A comprehensive all-day workshop with Andy Bunting from in focus, winner of the WWT Nikon Photograph of the Year Competition and BIAZA Wildlife in the Wild. The day is designed to help you understand some of the basics of photography and how they relate to your current camera, which will in turn allow you to improve your photographic results. You will look into the three parameters of shutter speed, aperture and iso rating, how they work with one another and how they affect your end results.

Drawing & Painting Birds
Join award winning local artist and illustrator Tony Disley for this one-day class exploring the process from drawing through to a finished painting. This class is designed for beginners with the aim of showing how to draw and paint a detailed and realistic painting of a bird subject. Practical demonstrations and tutorials throughout the day will help guide you to produce a small finished painting.

All of these courses are available to book online by going to www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere and clicking through to the 'what's on' (September, October & December). Places are limited at just 8 per session to ensure you receive one to one tuition so it is advised to book early to secure your place.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

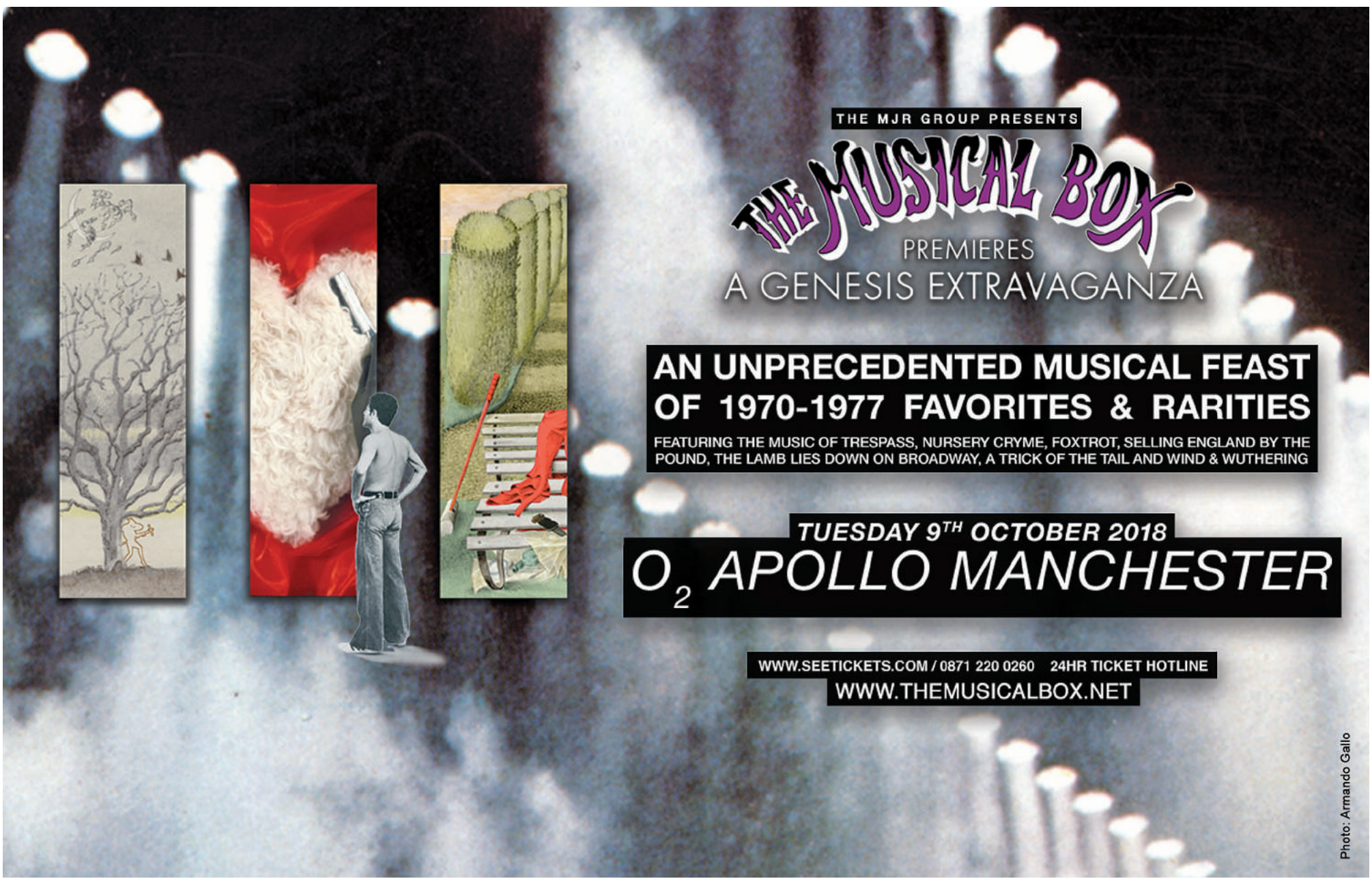
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Photo: Armando Gallo

Rise in stem cell donors but more young men still needed

MORE than 15,000 people from the North West registered to become stem cell donors in 2017, bringing the total number in the region to 148,305, new figures released reveal.

However, the annual review of the Anthony Nolan and NHS Stem Cell Registry reveals that while the register now stands at 1.4m, young men are significantly under-represented.

More than 2,200 searches for a lifesaving transplant were made in 2017 with 82 per cent of people who donated stem cells or bone marrow men, and 57 per cent men aged under 30. Men under 30 make up just 12 per cent of the UK stem cell register; highlighting the importance of raising awareness of their lifesaving potential among this group.

Marginally fewer donors from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds joined the UK stem cell register in 2017. Donors from minority ethnic backgrounds make up just 14% of the UK stem cell register. Patients from black, Asian or other minority backgrounds have only a 20% chance of finding the best possible donor match, compared to 69% for northern European backgrounds.

Head chocolatier at Choc Amor, Paul Williams, with their latest award-winning creations.

Sweet taste of success at the double!

THE talented team at a West lancs-based specialist chocolate maker are celebrating after tasting success at the double at a prestigious food industry awards.

Choc Amor of Mawdesley scooped two 2-star ratings at the 2018 Great Taste Awards.

Organised by the Guild of Fine Food and described as the 'Oscars' of the food world, Great Taste celebrates the very best in food and drink.

Choc Amor was the only chocolatier to be awarded a 2-star for its Brown Butter and Nibs in a rich 45% milk chocolate. And it was also awarded a 1-star for its Tonka Bean in 61% dark chocolate.

Both awards are judged by the most demanding palates, belonging to food critics, chefs, cooks, restaurateurs and producers, as well as a whole host of food writers and journalists.

Great Taste is widely acknowledged as the most respected food accreditation scheme for artisan and speciality food producers.

Paul Williams, head chocolatier at Choc Amor, said: "This is the sixth year we have entered and the sixth year we have won. We now have 15 Great Taste Awards in total which we are really proud of.

"Our total haul of awards for this year is six as we also picked up four at The Academy of Chocolates in London earlier on.

"I would like to thank all our staff for this great team effort and our amazing customers for their continued support."

Southport Flower Show Competition Winners

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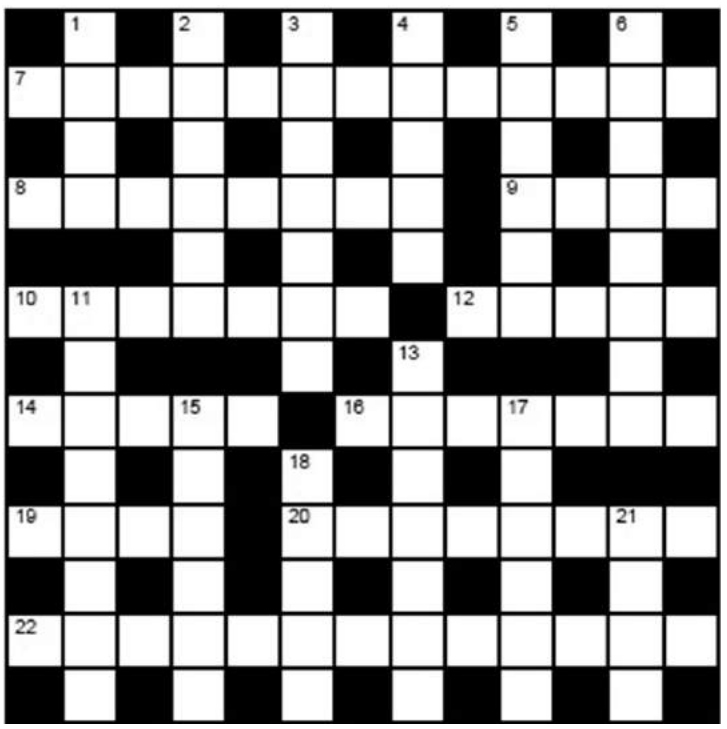

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Across: 7. Eldest. 8. Hurrah. 9. Meek. 10. Autobahn. 11. Syringe. 13. Ebony. 15. Caber. 17. Arsenal. 20. Mill race. 21 Magi. 22. Prison. 23. Expand.
Down: 1. Sleepy. 2. Leek. 3. Strange. 4. Photo. 5. Probable. 6. Cash in. 12. Idealist. 14. Creeper. 16. Apiary. 18. Angina. 19. Gaunt. 21. Mope.

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ACROSS

7. Electronic device used in stores to identify the price of goods (7, 6)
8. The combined action of a group, especially when effective and efficient (8)
9. A stretch of swampy or boggy ground (4)
10. A surrogate (5-2)
12. To bury (5)
14. A mound of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark, typically on a hilltop (5)
16. The use of irony to mock or convey contempt (7)
19. Hard work (4)
20. Asset (8)
22. Public money available for other purposes when defence spending is reduced (5, 8)

DOWN

1. Fee for a journey on public transport (4)
2. Shrewdness (6)
3. Very stupid (7)
4. Device for slowing down or stopping a moving vehicle (5)
5. Term for someone without professional or specialized knowledge in a particular subject (6)
6. Courageous (8)
11. Cloth used to dry dishes (3, 5)
13. Enormous (7)
15. Historical objects surviving from earlier times (6)
17. Covered, encrusted, or saturated with dirt (6)
18. Person who is or claims to be easily shocked by matters relating to sex or nudity (5)
21. One hundredth of a US dollar (4)

Ukulele festival 'best yet' says organiser

Event draws musicians from all over the UK

Organiser, Gary Smith and ukulele artist Andrea D Cooke at Parbulele.

THE organiser of Parbold's third Parbulele ukulele festival, has hailed it as the best yet with players travelling from all over the UK to attend.

The three-day event opened with a mock wedding ceremony in the village hall of last year's festival mascot, Mr Parbulele, to this year's mascot, Mrs Parbulele, followed by a concert.

Designs for the two mascots had been chosen via a competition held between local schools.

Over the weekend ukulele local bands played at various venues through the village, while there was also an open mic session on the main stage at the specially-constructed Music Village at the side of the canal.

The event also featured workshops run by professional artists to teach beginners how to play the ukulele and also to help current players seeking to improve their skills.

Organiser, Gary Smith, said: "Parbulele 2018 was the best yet with the whole village supporting it and ukulele players from the length and breadth of the country attending.

"A big thanks to everyone who came and supported us."

Right: Mr and Mrs Parbulele 'tie the knot' to start the 2018 Parbold Ukulele Festival.

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'King of Swing' singer Asa makes a spectacle of himself

PROFESSIONAL swing singer Asa Murphy from Maghull has written, produced and will perform in a new show on the life and songs of Buddy Holly.

Asa currently has his own Sunday BBC Radio Merseyside programme and is a life-long fan of Buddy Holly, who he says is probably one of the most inspirational artists of all time.

The show, which takes to the stage at Liverpool's Epstein Theatre in November, tells the story of Buddy Holly from when he performed in a roller rink, to his famous appearance at Harlem.

"He was the first white artist to play the Apollo Theatre to a completely black audience and he absolutely tore the place apart", Asa said.

The show goes up to Buddy's final ever concert in Clear Lake, Iowa before his untimely death aged 22.

It features audio and visual clips and is interspersed by 18 of Buddy Holly's songs, performed by the King of Swing himself.

Asa, has been a swing singer for more than 15 years and has toured all over the UK and abroad.

He said: "I have always wanted to perform a show about Buddy Holly.

"I have always sang swing music career wise, but I have always had a fascination with Buddy Holly because his career only spanned 17 months, from 1957 when That'll Be The Day was released until he died on February 3, 1959.

"I would say that he is probably one of the most influential artists of all time."

Buddy Holly Lives, The Music Never Died will show at the Epstein Theatre, Hanover Street, on November 16 with a 7.30pm start.

Other dates will be added, Asa commented, and there are also plans to take the show on the road.

In the meantime, the singer says, you might just see him walking around Maghull Square with his Buddy Holly glasses on!

Asa Murphy has been wearing glasses to get used to his role as Buddy Holly, inset, in his new show.

Musician picked for programme to develop up and coming talent

Report by **Kenny Parker**

MUSICIAN and Champion distributor, David Hughes will be aiming to deliver a winning performance after being chosen to take part in an innovative project to develop the careers of promising artists.

The 23-year-old from Ormskirk, who performs under the project name Charity Shop Pop, makes experimental pop music by bringing in influences from the indie music scene and mixing ambient and electronic sounds from various other genres.

Following his project's selection for Merseyrail Sound Station, which is run in conjunction with Liverpool music magazine, *Bido Lito!,* he will benefit from two months of studio workshops and one-to-one sessions with representatives from across the industry, culminating in a range of live performances, including the Merseyrail Sound Station Live Festival at Liverpool Central railway station on Friday, September 28.

David, who has delivered the Champion, since he was 15, is one of a cohort of Merseyside-based artists to be selected for the programme and has already had tracks played on BBC radio.

He said: "I'm delighted to have been chosen for this year's Sound Station - although I'm still in a state of shock as I applied on a whim and never expected to get through to the final stage.

"The programme will really help me to develop as an artist and open up lots of doors, allowing more people to hear my music. I am also really excited about performing the live sessions in Central Station in September which will be pretty cool."

Merseyrail Sound Station Live, now in its sixth year, will take place in partnership with BBC Music Day.

Craig Pennington, *Bido Lito!* founder and Sound Station project lead, said: "This project is about ensuring the next generation of musicians are equipped to excel in the modern music environment.

"The music sector has changed hugely over the past decade, with the decline of record sales and the rise of new models around streaming that place artists in a great position of power and opportunity.

"Sound Station will give musicians a solid foundation and allow them to work with some of the most exciting music companies in the country, as well as providing them with the knowledge and skills they need."

Music talent David Hughes from Ormskirk who has been chosen to take part in Sound Station

Merseyrail managing director, Andy Heath, said: "We are hugely proud to be part of such an important and progressive project which will give invaluable advice and opportunities to Merseyside's bustling musical talent."

Tracks from all the Merseyrail Sound Station artists can be found at www.merseyrail-soundstation.com.

editorial@champnews.com

Parbold Douglas announces Saturday concert season

PARBOLD Douglas Music's forthcoming Saturday concert season aims to offer its audience a dazzling range of the highest quality artists and varied styles of music.

Built on its concert grand Steinway and the venue, a future link has been established with the world-famous Leeds International Piano Competition.

Audiences will be able to hear two of its recent victors. Anna Tsybuleva, the 2015 winner, described as one of the finest young musicians of her generation by Peter Donohoe, perform a popular virtuoso Chopin and Tchaikovsky programme on Saturday, October 20.

The 2012 Leeds winner, Federico Colli, follows her on November 10 with a classic programme of Brahms and Mozart.

In complete contrast on Saturday, November 17, Neil Brand, the presenter of BBC TV's Sound of Cinema' series and also the UK's best silent film piano accompanist, will present the life and films of Buster Keaton and play a live piano accompaniment to a screening of Keaton's complete 71-minute comedy Steamboat Bill Jnr.

After two year's of messages and the attraction of the rare combination of great cinema projection and a Steinway concert grand, Parbold Douglas Music and The Picture House are proud to present Neil Brand for the first time in the North West.

The Autumn series ends on December 8 with a traditional Christmas concert by Leyland Brass Band, but the evening will open with a commemoration of the end of WW1.

Anna Tsybuleva

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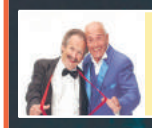

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GROLSH BOTTLES 16 brown & crate, excellent condition £12. great for home brewers. Upholland 01695 623909

SIX BOXES of car boot sale items, some still in wrappers due to house move soon £20 01704 893107

BOOT SALE Items six boxes all assorted items, some brand new due to house move soon £20 01704 893107

WALKING BOOTS Mens brown leather, hardly worn, size 10 £12. Formby Phone 07946 981231 or 01704 876466

AIRBED SINGLE Eurohike, Flocked, Navy, Unpacked But Not Used, Pump Not Included. Collect From Birkdale. £10 ono 01704 560564

CAMPING OR Two lightweight weatherproof aluminium folding camping or garden stools in very good condition. £10 01704 546978

FISHING ROD Shipman Carp Cruncher Power Match 13ft Float rod as new. cost £120 used 3 times cheaper than ebay £45 ono 01704564469

FISHING CHAIR Total Fishing Easy light chair with arms extending legs etc used once Birkdale area accept £35 ovno 01704564469

HOBBIES

BEACHCASTER ROD Nerus Beachcaster 12ft Rod almost new with Canvas bag £12 collected Skelmersdale,(I now fish from my boat) 07756497201

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BEACH TRIPOD Nerus Match Tripod (two rod capacity) Aluminium little used £15 Collected Skelmersdale. (I now fish from my boat) 07756497201

CARAVAN AWNING Pyramid tuscany, maroon/grey, size 775, used twice, excellent condition £150. Porch awning, good condition, little used £50 ono 01695 575827

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YAMAHA FX310 Jumbo acoustic guitar with integral bridge pickup allows amplification, superb tone and intonation, suit novice to professional player £175 01704831977

BEACHCASTER ROD Taktix Beachcaster 12ft Rod excellent condition £10 collected Skelmersdale,
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HOME ENTERTAINMENT

TV STAND Black glass and chrome TV stand suit up to 42" TV. £10 07935205672

GUITAR AMPLIFIER for Acoustic guitars Prime A-30X 40 Watts Ht13" W 17.5" D7" £39 ONO Aughton 07979 814795

TV STAND 3 tier black with silver columns, fit up to 50" TV £30 ono. Could deliver local 07549609400

FLAT SCREEN 32" television and glass stand with two shelves excellent condition may deliver £80 ono 01515263851

X BOX Limited Edition Translucent green X Box console, 2 Controllers, cables with 6 games £50 01704 893195

150 RECORDS approx 150 lps including 2 boxed sets wide range of music in good condition £50 OVNO ring evenings 01704628149

EDIFIER MULTIMEDIA sound system, C3 amplifier, 2 satellite speakers, + sub base, remote, high quality system with great sound
£70 07504888423

X-BOX360 White games console 60gb h/drive,X Box360 KINECT, 2 X Box microphones, 28 games, original boxes. and instructions. Excellent condition £80 01695423023

HOUSE AND HOME

RECLINING SWIVEL chair and stool. As seen in Dobbies at £230. Excellent condition £100. 07759071982

BLACK BUSH WASHING MACHINE Nearly new, excellent condition £100 Coffee Table, solid wood, needs sanding £60 07482968980

LEATHER 2 SEATER SOFA, power recliner armchair and storage stool in dark brown from Stokers. Excellent condition less than a year old. Selling due to a house move. £650 01704 565966

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HOUSE AND HOME

PHILIPS JUICER HR1861 £20 As new. Eighteen 01695 424804

CLIP FRAMES 80 x 60 cms £2 each FORMBY 01704878473

SINGLE BED Pine single bed with mattress. £50. 01695573291

SETTEES Pair of 2 seater settees, coral colour in very good condition £150 01704 461278

VACUUM CLEANER Small "pod" cylinder vacuum cleaner with spare filter. £20 07935205672

STEAM MOP Steam mop, also freshens carpets. £10 07935205672

GLASS TABLE smoked round 42 inch, chrome legs glass table for £25.00 07756229527

TUMBLE DRYER White tumble dryer, full sized good working condition. £20. 07756229527

HOUSE AND HOME

BREAD MAKER Electric Bread Maker in box, excellent condition for £15 0151 5260731

BROWN CARPET 6ft*4ft £30 Ono excellent condition 01515260731

GREY RUG 5ft 4" x 3ft 10" £20 Ono excellent condition 01515260731

BAGLESS DYSON upright model, grey and green, excellent suction, can deliver £35 01704214498

DINING CHAIRS Four high backed chairs- black and silver V.G.C. £50.00. 01704547432

BATHROOM MIRROR 33" X 17" with light & shelf vgc £20 01772814690

DYSON UPRIGHT D.C.04 (pet hair) cleaner working order £30 07857 545819

SUMMER DUVET single Beals duck feather & down 10.5 tog never used £10 07763 753934

DYSON VACUUM clenaer DC Upright good working order £30 01695 633471

DINING CHAIRS 4 Next Moda dark brown excellent condition £20 each ono 01704 571062

CHINESE RUG red £75 long hall carpet £40 both as new 01704 578671

SOFA BED Next grey striped sofa bed immaculate condition 2years old £175 ono 07966245110

BLACK SEETEE 2 x 2 seater leather look £10 each will separate 07870288020 evenings

HOUSE AND HOME

TOWER FAN With remote control in excellent condition £25 01704878473

SOFA & ARMCHAIR Two seater in stone colour cloth finish £100 Ainsdale area tel 01704628650

KITCHEN/BAR STOOLS Black seat, adjustable chrome base £25 each 01704628650

SMALL TRAILER 4ft x 3ft. Needs refurb - overhaul. £45 01704 877594

2SEATER SOFAS Two 2-seater cream sofas, £100 for the pair. Fire labels intact! 01695573291

OAK SIDEBOARD w 52" d22.5" h37" 3 drawers 2 side cupboards £50 Ono 01704 212232

TWO SOFAS Beige material 3 & 2 seater.With cushions. Very good condition. £200 01695578188

WANTED DOORS 4 internal panelled doors in good condition, size 28" width by 7ft 4" height. 07902035065

HSL CHAIRS Two HSL armchairs, wine coloured. Surplus to requirements £50 each 07935205672

SOFAS M and S 3 and 2 seater sofas in deep red with gold pattern. excellent cond. £150 ono 01704 895016

ERCOL SUITE 3 Piece Suite - £200 or best offer - Collection only from Ormskirk 07834151165

PHILIPS HOSTESS dinner trolley 4 top dishes with lids, +2 oven shelves, good condition, £40, Ainsdale, 01704 808691

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JOHN LEWIS black leather sofa 195 90d 75h chrome legs immaculate with no sign of wear £160 07966101288

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FRIDGE FREEZER Zanyssi frost free white energy rating A very good condition £50 Crosby area 0779 383074

ELECTRIC HEATERS Two for conservatory. One radiator style one auto frost new with instructions £10 each 01772 613638

LIGHT OAK 2 Drawer sideboard V.G.C £100. 6 No dining chairs, cream leather, hardly used £300 07749 113061

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STANDARD DARK wood lamp with cream lined shade excellent condition may deliver £90 ono 01515263851

BOILER PROGRAMMER Danfoss 102E7 7 day digital programmer £15 07870288020 evenings

RANGE COOKER Beaumatic stainless steel 5 burners 2 ovens and grill ovens light up £270 ono 07870288020 evenings

CANDY FRIDGE under counter fridge,white,good condition.£25. can deliver southport area. 01704 548264

CANDY FREEZER candy under counter freezer,white,good condition ,can deliver southport area.£25 01704 548264

SOFA BED small,brown fabric. fold out low level.Ideal for children sleep over.£25.00 01695 573982

LEATHER SOFA 3 seater leather sofa and chair. Dark brown encased in wooden frame. Good Condition £50 01704 560540

DIMPLEX FIRE Exbury. Ex-display, remote, inset chrome electric fire. Great condition £99. 0151 9330783

TROUSER PRESS Murphy Richards trouser Press good condition hardly used anymore ,£25, buyer collects 07823884687

LIEBHERR FREEZER Free standing,4 drawers,34 inches high,2 Ft deep,2ft wide. £100 ono 01695578188

LAMP SHADE Standard lamp shade vintage large, pink fleck material with long fringe £10 01704 893195

TV UNIT Wooden Nathan corner TV unit with side display shelves and doors to front. To be collected from Burscough. £25 07910788207

STAG UNIT stag wooden unit in very good condition to hold music centre or can be used as normal cupboard £45 07741206449

COFFEE TABLE VIOLIN glass top table with ornate violin and music book underneath a lovely table very attractive £50 07741206449

NEFF.ELECTRIC OVEN Stainless Steel, Volume 66.L Original Cost-£399- (6 months old) Selling for- £125- ONO Contact no: 07792532022 01704 225958

DOUBLE BED Pretty M&S cream metal bed, L79ins, W56ins, H54ins, dismantled ready to collect, lovely quality, Formby £175 07986 674821

KENWOOD MICROWAVE like new/little used black/stainless steel 25 litre LED display glass turntable instruction booklet bargain £30 01704220356

MODERN POUFFE Sherbourn cube shape modern black pouffe in easy-clean leatherette material. 18 inches square by 11 inches high. £20. 01704 546978

FRAMED PRINT approx 21X31 inch large framed print of a lady titled spring med/dark frame with few marks £10 ono phone evenings 01704628149

EDINBURGH CRYSTAL stemmed wine glasses, beautiful genuine Montrose design used for display only. £45 no offers. 01695423023

MICROWAVE 800WATT Make - Sharp in white, touch button controls. Clean and in full working order. recent new turntable. £15. 01695423023

DUCAL SUITE 3 seater and 2 two seater settees plus one armchair. Fabric covered,very comfy. Very good condition £65. Buyer to collect 01695423023

BREAD MAKER Panasonic model sd-200 240 volt 550 watt made in Japan in excellent condition with instructions. £35 01695422006

SHOE TIDY Light pine finish with opening front for 12 pair shoes. Padded seat and as new in very good condition. £25 01695422006

DINING TABLE Dropleaf table in dark wood finish in good condition. Well made and built from solid timber late 1950. £35 01695422006

SMALL FRIDGE White under counter fridge in good working condition , freezer compartment not working. £10.00 07756229527

CONSERVATORY BLINDS 7 blinds 4/33inw x 57in drop 1/48inw x 57in drop 2/67inw x 57in drop cream colour £50 01704 577158

COFFEE SET Glazed pottery. Brown and white. Coffee pot with four mugs and unusual plate-like saucers. £6.99 ono. Ainsdale. 07753909040

ESPRESSO SET All glazed pottery. 2 cups.saucers (brown) and 2 spoons (white). New condition in sealed pack. Ainsdale. £3.99 ono 07753909040

DINING TABLE With 6 chairs high polish walnut effect looks great pictures supplied £150 no offers as good as new 07767790187

PRINT ON canvas. Mid blue & aqua green. Abstract water. H&W50cm. D3cm. Very good condition. 01704 808024/07763000776

FORMICA TABLE leaf pattern top, 50" long, 23" wide, 30" high (1.3mX60cmX75cm). From smoke and pet-free home. GC. £30. 01695 578368

SHOWER PUMP Salamander CTForce20SU, 2 bar for negative head. Brand new, unused, under warranty. Very quiet. £90. 01695 578368

UPVC WINDOW 66" W X 72" H double glazed. Dark brown frame on exterior, white on interior. Very good condition. £125 ono 0151 2873964

DINING TABLE Light beige & four chairs, 5 feet x 3 feet high back chairs with cream padding on seats. Buyer collects £75 07917 325223

MODERN BATH White, never fitted W2'7" L5'11" £40 New stainless steel sink unit left hand draining board £15 01695 729190

HARDWOOD CABINET Record / Storage H 835cm W790cm D 465cm. 2 Shelves L side record slots R side one overhead shelf £55 01704 878805

HARDWOOD & glass display corner cabinet H 175.5cm W 50cm D 50cm Top glass door 3 shelves bottom wooden door shelves £55 01704 878805

NEW DYSON D75 Animal Kinetic big ball upright corded vacuum cleaner in sealed unopened box, £200, no offers thank you 07914 187969

KENWOOD Multi processor complete with attachments & recipe book. Most attachments, never used but large just has a crack £40 0770 525206

CHANDELIER 3 lights glass & brass, can be seen working £20 two table / bedside lamps, bronze metal, very pretty £10 07977 344241

WORKTOP 2x5 foot lengths of 40mm worktop black & white speckled, good quality both £15. Russell Hobbs 800w microwave oven, white£15 01772812767

TWO SETS of cream lined curtains valance tie backs track rail and hooks width 5ft each curtain drop 7ft 6" excellent £100 01515263851

DINING TABLE dining table and four chairs,traditional dark wood,oval shape,excellent condition,can deliver southport area.£50. 01704 548264

CORNER UNIT Mahogany Corner Display Unit. Glass Front and a cupboard at bottom. 6ft tall. Good Condition £30 01704 560540

OBLONG WALL mirror (52"x17"), mahogany wooden frame with carved edging/gold gilt inlay. Ex con. Robust material. £30 07821417560/07855222552

ELECTRIC TABLE/BEDSIDE lamp - blue globe of the world-12" circumference. Black base. As new £10 07821417560/07855222552

CURTAINS (W66"xD72")-large stripe-3 tones of brown/100% polyester/lined. Still in Dunelm for £99-asking £50. Like new. 07855222552

STUART CRYSTAL Liqueur glasses in Glengarry design. Three inches tall. Very good condition. Five available at £1.50 each. 01704 877594

STUART CRYSTAL Sherry glasses in Glengarry design. Four inches tall. Very good condition. Nine available at £1.50 each. 01704 877594

BULKHEAD LIGHT Rectangular mains powered bulkhead light in white. Takes 100w bayonet bulb. 24cm L x 13cm W x 11cm H.£3 01704 877594

NEW WALLPAPER New 12 rolls of blue tartan luxury wallpaper and 6 rolls of pink tartan luxury wallpaper sell £6 a roll 01512081761

KENWOOD MICROWAVE 25 litre stainless steel and black. Glass turntable. LED display 900w press button. Instructions. little used like new bargain £30 01704220356

STOVES COOKER 60cm double oven gas, electric grill, glass lid, white, unmarked excellent condition,instruction book,18mths old. Can help with delivery £275. 07104874882 07941400538

LAMINATE FLOORING Pergo scratch resistant 10mm x 200x 1285 built in underlay planks.Immaculate .,Chalked oak finish.£10 square m 07966101288

VERY LIGHT coloured solid console table with lower shelf 140x50cms.Matching extending dining table to sell available as separate sale.£100 07966101288

HEADBOARD AND FOOTBOARDS Brand new, selection of John Lewis headboards and footboard, solid oak, antique brass, fabric. Prices from £80. 07980 162415

PRINT ON canvas. Modern. Red flowered plant in terracotta vase + terracotta bowls. Light creamish background. H&W79.5cm. D2.5cm. Excellent condition. £10 01704 808024/07763000776

INTERIOR DOOR solid plastic, smooth surface, white high gloss, reassuringly heavy, 4 hinges included. 67"x24"x3/4" (174cmX60cmX2cm). Excellent condition. £30. 01695 578368

BLACK LEATHER 3 Seater recliner, 1 single chair recliner worn & well used smoke free house collection only with cash £100. needs reupholstery 07547912094

DEBENHAMS DUVETS Single duck feather and down 13.5 tog duvets, only used on spare beds £10 each. Bedside cabinet & chest drawers £10 01704 506539

OUTDOOR RUG For patio, lawn, play area, conservatory. Very stylish. XL 290cmx200cm. Grey with patterned border. Polypropylene looks like flatweave hessian £50 Formby 07590028368

INTERNAL DOOR 6-panel wood grain effect door with white gloss finish, complete with handles and hinges. 1972mm*762mm. Excellent condition. £15. Southport. 07906 501206

AMERICAN ROCKER Antique American style rocking chair with leather seat, back, arm rests and head rest. In very good condition. Southport. £50 07906 501206

CANE FURNITURE Dining Table Glass Topped 39" Diameter and 4 Chairs with Removable Padded Cushions, Excellent Condition, Ideal for Kitchen/Conservatory £45.00 01704 878518

2 SOFAS/FOOTSTOOL Two&-three seater, Brown leather, buttoned chesterfield style arms, cushioned seats/backs, matching buttoned footstool, 4 years old, very good condition £450 07964703423

FRAME. WOODEN effect. Dark. Very large. Ornate carving. W133.5cm. 52.5". H102.5cm. 40"6. Fair condition.Small chips & scratches mainly on edges. £35 ono 01704 808024/07763000776

DESK. BEECH effect. Large. Large curved shelf suitable for a computer monitor, small shelf & pinboard. W129cm, D65cm, H74cm. Dismantled. Good condition. £25. 01704 808024/07763000776

CURTAINS beige silk/lounge/self-coloured, with classic design embroidered into material (by Montgomery-Interiors) W66"xD54". Triple box pleat. VGC £100 07821417560/07855222552

MISC

SUN LOUNGER Striped canvas folds flat £5 01704 541276

JIM REEVES Boxed set 6 LP's Golden Memories £6 07704 785755

STERLING SILVER RING Celtic open knotwork edged ring, in box, size U £20 07704 785755

PICNIC BASKET Wicker, tartan lining, no accessories £15 ono 07704 785755

BARBECUE Unused, unwanted gift, gas bottle required £20 01704 877498

WANTED Charger for Konica Minolta camera dimage G530 01704 578488

OLD BOOKS 6 Hall Caine, 7 Mrs Henry Wood & others £offers. Formby 875862

BOXES OF various household items for sale ideal for car boot sale £40 ono 01515263851

SEX PISTOLS Live at the Manchester Free Trade.Very rare LP. Offers wanted 07792927610

NOKIA 7373 swivel camera phone brown/gold locked to orange excellent condition bargain £15 01704220356

SHUBB CAPO nickel type, for electric or acoustic guitar, brand new still in packaging. £15 07504888423

100 X Golf Ball used but in great condition all makes bargain the lot £15 01515319425/07773242918

EVERTON & Wales Neville Southall Signed Hardback Book make a lovely present as good as new bargain £10 07773242918

GOLF CLUBS John Daly irons 4-5-6-7-8-pw-sw very good condition bargain £25 07773242918

PANDORA BRACELET Bracelet and 2 charms £60 excellent condition in original box and bag 01515260731

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MOUNTFIELD Petrol mower g.w.o £35. Shoper bike £30. Wooden step ladder solid £15 01744632889

PORTA POTTI & 5ltr collapsible water carrier all brand new, colour white £18 for both. Hesketh Park area 01704 546588

TRIPP Grey cabin suitcase, excellent condition plus matching holdall, never used £25 both 541204

SECURITY MIRROR Large bevelled security/ viewing mirror. 24 inches diameter with attached wall bracket .£60 01695424360

JADE SET bangle and ring set. Real jade. Paid over £150 for them. Unwanted gift. Sell set £45 01512081761

LEFT HAND strat style electric guitar ash body, maple neck, rosewood fingerboard, new strings, great guitar, £59 07504888423

SAILING SHIPS 2 framed prints approx 17x15 inch titled Anchored & Art is eternal slight water damage to one £8 phone evenings 01704 628149

PORTA POTTI Porta Potti Thetford 345 nearly new. Bought in error. Does not fit our camper. Excellent condition. £22 ono 07759591185

SHAVER FOIL Braun 30B for series 3, series 1, SmartControl, TriControl, 7000 and 4000 series. Unopened box bought in error. £5. 01695 578368

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COFFEE MACHINE Nescafe £15. Pandora bracelet, 2 charms £60. Ladies hodder shoes, new condition size 5 £10 0151 5260781

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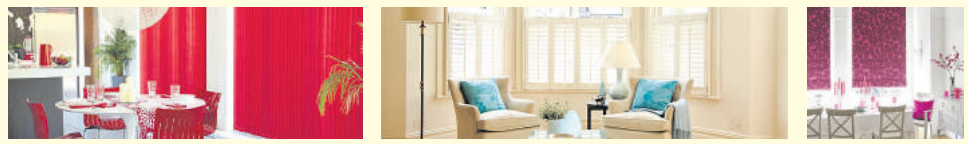
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Announcements

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July 2018

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DAVIES ROBERT JAMES
Robbie/Davo

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours, for all their sympathy cards, messages of condolence and not forgetting ex colleagues and pupils for their messages. Thanks also to the staff at Parkgate Surgery, the District Nurses, The Clatterbridge Centre, Queenscourt Hospice and Care Concern Birkdale, for all their care and attention given and donations to Queenscourt received during their recent sad loss. Thank you all.

BEVAN DAVID (BILLY)

The family wish to thank everyone for all the visits, cards, phone calls and flowers they received following the sudden death of David. The support was overwhelming and very much appreciated.
A very big thank you to Rev'd Barbara Banton and to Melanie and staff at Hardmans for all their help and very dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STRINGFELLOW DENIS
10th December 1931
to 14th July 2018
Aged 86

The Stringfellow Family; would like to thank, family friends and all nurses involved in Denis's care, for all the love and support shown, over the last few difficult months.
Special thanks to Sharon Brown Discharge Planning and Josephine Walmsley Southport Hospital, a fabulous caring nurse.
Also to Manager Judith Marshall and all her wonderful Care Team at the Beaufort Nursing Home Burscough, for their love and marvellous care bestowed on Denis in his final days, the staff were outstanding - friendly caring and very supportive to our family. All staff gave a Premier League Service. Thank you to Sutton Avenue and everyone who gave generous donations to Tarleton Corinthians and Hesketh Bank Football Clubs

"Local Football always close to Denis's Heart".

Also Special Thanks to Claire and Dave of : Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors Hesketh Lane Tarleton PR4 6RJ for their highly dignified care and special attention to detail whilst laying Denis to rest .
He was in good hands!

Our family were given so much time, love support and comfort from Claire and Dave. A Top Class Service!

Many thanks to you all.
Love Wife Joan Stringfelllow and Children Stephen, Karen, Trevor and Families.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HUNTER BERNARD CLIFFORD (CLIFF)

Sylvia and the family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their sympathy cards and messages of condolence, and for donations for Friends of Holy Family Church. Special thanks to Father Philip Gregory for celebrating Mass with us. Grateful thanks to Anabel at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for her patience, kindness and understanding, and for her professional and dignified funeral arrangements.

HUYTON MARGARET

The family of the late Margaret would like to express their heartfelt thanks, to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations for Alder Hey Hospital, received during their recent sad loss of a wonderful Mum and Nanna. Thanks also to Rev. Sarah O'Donoghue for her comforting words and sincere ministrations and Lisa Hunter and the team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements. Grateful thanks to you all.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

MOORCROFT BRENDA
Happy Birthday to a wonderful Wife and Mum

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DEATHS

GILL STEPHEN JAMES

28th July 2018
Peacefully in hospital, aged 61 years

Funeral service will take place at The Salvation Army Citadel on Friday 10th August at 2.15pm followed by the committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for The Salvation Army. Donations and further enquiries to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport PR9 9TG. Tel 01704 214118.

STOPFORTH BARBARA

29th July 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 97 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Stan and loving Mum of Michael. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral service took place at West Lancashire Cermatorium, Burscough on Wednesday 8th August 2018. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

ECCLES HARRY

25th July 2018
Aged 93 Years

Died at home following a long illness bravely fought. Much beloved Husband of Betty, loving Father of Dave and Debbie, proud Grandfather of Katie, Howard and Eric, and dear Great-Granddad of Jake, Lucy, Noah and Dylan. Sadly missed and lovingly remembered. Service at St Peter's Parish Church, Birkdale on Monday 13th August at 1:00pm followed by interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for The R.N.L.I. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

GRIFFITH MARY PATRICIA

26th July 2018
Aged 86 years

Passed away peacefully at home, reunited with her Husband John and Daughter Pauline. Much loved Mum of Gillian, a wonderful Auntie and a special friend. Special thanks to all who cared for her. Funeral Mass at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Crosby on Thursday 9th August at 11am. Family flowers only. All donations to Choices Day Care and Activity Centre or Dementia UK c/o Coyne Bros, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby L37 3PE. Tel 01704 873899.

CROSS MARGARET

Passed away on 28th July 2018 aged 95 years

Loved and missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at St. Andrews Church, Maghull on Thursday 9th August 2018 at 11.00 am, followed by committal at West Lancs Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for St. Andrews Church. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888.

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FERNS JOHN

On 4th August 2018 At Home with his family by his side Aged 67 Years R.I.P.

Beloved Husband of Marion, and Adored Dad of Stephen and Jenny. Funeral Mass will take place at Holy Family Catholic Church on Friday 10th August at 11:30am, followed by the committal at Southport Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations if so desired for Pancreatic Cancer UK. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel 01704 214118.

DALY HILDA (NEE BALL)

29th July 2018
Passed away in hospital and of Upholland aged 84 years

Beloved Wife of the late Stan, devoted Mum of Jean, Christine and Linda. Dear Mother-in-law of Paul. A much loved Nan of Jennifer, Melissa, Kate, Jack, Brad and Great Nan of Lydia, Maddy and Talia. Funeral service will take place on Friday 10th August 2018 at Upholland Parish Church at 2pm followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers are welcome or donations via the family. All enquiries to W. Banks of Orrell, Sefton Villa, Sefton Road, Orrell, WN5 8UP Tel: 01695 622272

RICHARDSON RONALD ERIC "ERIC"

27th July 2018
Aged 79 Years
Suddenly

Eric will be sadly missed by his Wife Pat, his Son, Daughter, Step Children and Grandchildren. He will also be greatly missed by all his many friends and aquaintances. Funeral service will take place on Monday 20th August at 11.20am at Thornton Crematorium. Family flowers only and donations if desired made payable to "Alzheimers Society", All enquiries and donations C/o Dean Bros Independent Funeral Directors , Deans Court, 76 Gores Lane, Formby, L37 7DF Tel: 01704 872023.

ASHWORTH KAREN

29th July 2018

Passed away peacefully after a brave battle with cancer. Dearly beloved partner of Steven, devoted and loving Mum of Mia and Orin, much loved Daughter of Joan and the late John, Sister of the late Mark and Step-Daughter of Tony. Will be very much missed by all her family and many friends. Service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday, 13th August at 2.40pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Breast Cancer Now. Further enquiries and donations to H. Johnson & Sons, Funeral Directors, 147 Roe Lane, Southport. PR9 7PW. Tel. 01704 227067.

LOWE (NEE CRUMP) WENDY

Formerly Parry

Of Stocks Hall Nursing Home Ormskirk, died at Southport Hospital on Saturday 28th July 2018

Much loved Mum and Grandma to Bethan, Peter, Elin, Huw and Lowri. Wife of Ron Lowe. Funeral at St John's C of E Church, Burscough Bridge, 1.30pm on Thursday 16th August. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Rett UK, Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a Liverpool Rd North, Burscough. Tel: 01704 891555.

TAYLOR TINA LOUISE

4th August 2018
Peacefully at her home in Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of Gary and loving Mum of Spencer, Courtney, Katie and Oliver. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 14th August 2018 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

APPLETON RICHARD ANTHONY

28th July 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 79 years of Bickerstaffe

The dearly loved Husband of Patricia, loving Dad of Karen and Alison, dear Father in law of Andrew and Neil and devoted Grandad of Emma, Matthew, Ben, Charlotte and their partners. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 9th August 2018 at 1:45pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Holy Trinity Church, Bickerstaffe. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman of H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

SHEEHAN MAUREEN ANGELA

1st August 2018
aged 86 years

Beloved Wife of the late Jack. Much loved Mum to Philip, Christopher and John. A dear Mother-in-law to Christine. Grandmother to Nicola, Mark, Philip, Jasmine and Jack. Great Grandmother to Joshua and Amelia. Sadly missed by all. Funeral to take place on Friday 10th August 2018 at St John's Roman Catholic Church, Chapel Lane, Burscough, at 10.45am followed by the committal at West Lancashire Crematorium at 11.30am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Joseph's Hospice. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0663/FUL New office development on vacant plot of land with off road car parking and associated landscaping at Land To The East Of, Stonecrop, North Quarry Business Park, Appley Bridge.

2018/0800/FUL Phased mixed-use redevelopment comprising: (Phase I) a residential development comprising 51 affordable housing units with associated access, parking, landscaping and infrastructure; (Phase II) a Class A1 retail store with associated car parking and servicing areas, access and infrastructure; and (Phase III) a terrace of six commercial units suitable for occupation within Classes A1 (non-food retail), B1 and/or B8 with associated car parking, access and infrastructure at Site Of Former Atkinson Kirkby, Atkinson Road, Ormskirk.

This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used

The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated:8th August 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT1006

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(WEST LANCASHIRE SUMMER TRIATHLON EVENT, WESTHEAD, LATHOM, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council ("The County Council") intend to make an Order under **Section 16A** of the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycle (apart from those participating in the event) from proceeding over the following lengths of highway, in the Borough of West Lancashire, as set out below;.

i. School Lane, from its junction with Vicarage Lane to its junction with Whiteley's Lane,
ii. Ruff Lane, from its junction with Vicarage Lane to its junction with Scarth Hill Lane,
iii. Whiteley's Lane from its junction with Scarth Hill Lane to its junction with A577 Wigan Road (Lathom),
iv. Vicarage Lane in a North East and Easterly direction from its junction with Ruff Lane to its junction with School Lane,
v. Ruff Lane in a South Easterly direction from its junction with Beech Meadow to its junction with Vicarage Lane

An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closures is as follows;
i. Ruff Lane - A570 Knowsley Road – A577 Wigan Road – A577 Cross Hall Brow – A577 Wigan Road and vice versa
ii. Ruff Lane - A570 Knowsley Road – A577 Wigan Road – A577 Cross Hall Brow – School Lane – Vicarage Lane
iii. A577 Wigan Road – A577 Cross Hall Brow – A577 Wigan Road A570 St Helens Road – Scarth Hill Lane and vice versa

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times, vehicular access will be maintained whenever and wherever possible.

The Police, Fire and Ambulance Services have been informed.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable the safe holding of the West Lancashire Summer Triathlon event 2018.

The prohibitions will be operative from, 0700 hours until 1230 hours on Sunday 26th August 2018, or sooner if the event finishes earlier

Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/13004/LSW]

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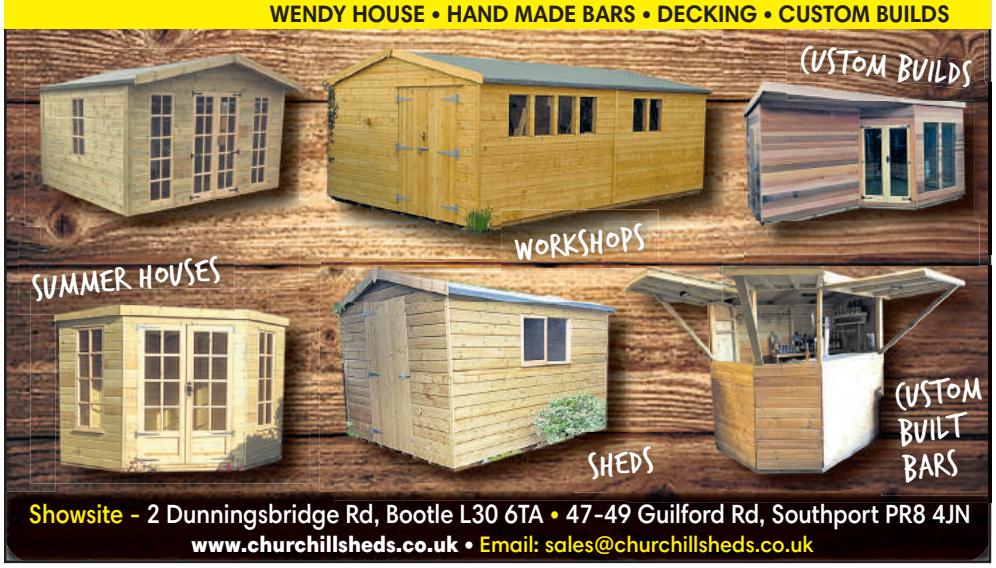

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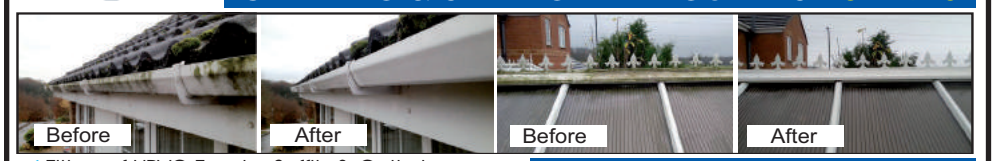

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Toyota has made its Avensis Tourer very good at blending in - but our motors man reckons he has the answer

As a car nut with a short attention span, I never know where my car is!

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

SOMETIMES the best places to go looking for cars aren't the bustling shows taking place at stately homes most weekends – it's the makeshift car parks next to them.

I was at one last Sunday and in the vast field given over to cars brought along by visitors I spotted a Jaguar XK150, a Ford Capri 3000XL, a Citroen CX GTI and a particularly well restored Hillman Super Minx. All of which were, lovely, of course, but the car I really wanted to see was a silver, 18-reg Toyota Avensis 2.0 D-4D Tourer. Largely because it's the car I'd been lent for the weekend, and I needed to get home again.

Anyone who's been to a big car show in something that isn't a Triumph TR4 will have encountered this problem.

After crawling through the grounds of a palatial country pile you're directed into a nondescript field, where some volunteers – who always seem to be children drafted in from a local Scout group – beckon you into neatly organised rows of cars that aren't terribly interesting.

Normally, if you park up somewhere you'll make a mental note of where you are – but because I'm a car nut with a short attention span my mind immediately zooms to what's on the other side of the show entry gate, and I forget.

Which is great right up to the moment you emerge seven hours later and have to find your mid-sized family hatchback in a vast, nondescript field filled from front to back with mid-sized family hatchbacks.

If you're lucky you might have remembered that you parked two rows away from a bloke in a Ferrari and that you can use his slightly dusty-looking F430 as a sort of homing beacon, but normally there's a horrible moment when you realise you might never see your car again.

I once spent two hours wandering around the peripheries of Goodwood trying to find a borrowed Skoda Fabia, which has six vast car parks given over to people who all seem to drive Skoda Fabias.

You might even end up doing the thing I do, which is to grab your car's keyfob and point it in just about every direction imaginable, hoping that somewhere in the distance you might see the reassuring flash of indicators of a car that's unlocking itself.

It makes you look like someone who's pulling shapes at an early '90s rave night, but it does on the odd occasion reunite you with your wheels.

I reckon the solution is for cars to be equipped with distress flares that can be activated remotely from the keyfob – especially for ones as visually anonymous as the current Avensis D-4D Tourer.

As long as the car show isn't held in a multi-storey car park this would work a treat, and you'd only have to look up to see in an instant where you've parked.

Or just turn up in something interesting, of course. I bet the bloke in the XK150 doesn't have this problem…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Volvo now offering turbocharged engine

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Domigan half century not enough to save Burscough from defeat

BURSCOUGH are 31 points adrift of the safety zone in the First Diviison after going down by 84 runs at second placed Orrell Red Triangle.

After electing to bat the hosts duly declared after 42 overs on 244-4, thanks to fine knocks from Minhaj Bhada 105, Sam Heeley 33*, Andrew Mottram 32 and Siddiq Patel 30*.

In Burscough's reply, Brendan Domigan 50 and Mark Crowley 41* top scored in a total of 160, with Heeley claiming 3-32.

It was a bad weekend for First Division, leaders Southport & Birkdale suffered a five wicket defeat at home against Wavertree on Saturday, and were then beaten by Ainsdale on Sunday in a match rescheduled due to S&B hosting a Lancashire match at the end of the month.

Against Wavertree on Saturday, S&B elected to bat and slipped from 46-2 to 76 all out with Adam Phillips top scoring with 21, whilst Stewart Guy 6-11 (inc a hat trick) and Matt Nation 4-26 did all the damage with the ball.

In reply, Darren Collin 30 and Romario Griffith 25* led the visitors to victory on 79-5.

On Sunday Ainsdale elected to bat and Stephen Lucas 69* and Mark Lucas 34 got them off to a great start as they reached 105-1 before Chris Firth spun Southport back in the match with a superb spell of 15-3-41-8, leaving Ainsdale's skipper Lucas once again top score 89 with over half his side's 163 total.

S&B struggled throughout their innings and were eventually dismissed for 107 with Firth 24 top scoring, whilst the stars with the ball were Mal Swift 6-46 and Martyn Farrell 4-53 who helped set up the 56 run victory.

Ainsdale had already recorded a thumping ten wicket home win on Saturday after bowling Wigan out for 139 with Martyn Farrell 6-35 and Mal Swift 3-48 on fire with the ball.

Skipper Stephen Lucas then hit his second century in as many weeks with an unbeaten 103* (inc 22x4) and his former captain Andy Barlow weighed in with an unbeaten 31 as Ainsdale romped to victory on 141-0.

Ormskirk score enough to beat New Brighton despite batting collapse

ORMSKIRK stay second in the Liverpool & District Competition Premier Division, although 36 points adrift of the leaders Northern, after a 49 run home win against struggling New Brighton, *writes Gelnn Wallworth.*

Lancashire's Josh Bohannon 62 and club stalwart John Armstrong 61 got Ormskirk off to a fine start on 146-1.

New Brighton then clawed their way back into the match with Ashraf Nawab 5-61 and David While 4-63 restricting Ormskirk to a total of 210.

In reply, Mark Rowland 66 and While 33 took the visitors to 115-2 before Tom Hartley 4-42, skipper Nicky Caunce 3-48 and Gavin Griffith 2-9 combined to dismiss New Brighton for 161.

Northern extended their lead at the top after a narrow two wicket win at Leigh.

Leigh chose to bat and were bowled out for 172 in the 50th over with Ross Zelem 53 and Lewis Pearson in decent touch, whilst the spin of Tom Sephton 5-54 and Justin Snow 2-24 accounted for the majority of the wickets.

Liam Grey bolstered Northern's innings with 58 and Lancashire's Tom Bailey hit 27, paving the way for Snow 29* and Sephton 10* to lead them over the victory line on 177-8.

Formby dropped 23 points adrift of Ormskirk after suffering a narrow three run defeat at Rainhill.

Rainhill were able to post 228 all out thanks to runs from David Atkinson 66, Ashen Perera 40, James Clarke 33 and Tyler McGladdery 30 with Lukman Vahaluwala 4-50 and young Jackson Darkes-Sutcliffe 3-57 sharing the bulk of the wickets.

In reply, Lancashire's Haseeb Hameed 81, Sam Oldham 50, Vahaluwala 40* and Ollie Sutton 35 took Formby to 206-5 before a dramatic collapse led by Akshay Darekar 4-74 saw them bowled out for 225.

Fourth placed Bootle closed the gap on Formby with a 19 run win at Wallasey.

Bootle chose to bat and thanks to a century from Sam Kershaw and a welcome return to form from skipper Craig Prince 62 were able to declare on 223-9, with Matt Wilcox 5-63 and Neil Cross 3-62 taking the majority of the wickets to fall.

In reply, Cross cracked 97 and Jack Leckey 29 but it wasn't enough as the spin of Scott Butterworth 6-19 helped dismiss the hosts for 204.

Century from Ring sets up win for Maghull

A CENTURY from John Ring helped Maghull record an 88 run win in their Second Division match at home to Southport Trinity.

Maghull racked up 298-6 declared in just 46 overs, thanks to the century from Ring 126 (20x4 & 1x6), 49 from skipper Paul Walters and 39 from Cam Lawrenson, whilst Tony Campbell took 4-75 with the ball.

Mohammad Nawaz (4-54) and Lawrenson (3-46) then shared seven wickets as Trinity were bowled out for 210.

Luke Falkiner 55, Wim Van Der Walt 42 and Shaun Robson 29 were top scorers.

Hightown St Mary's were beaten by eight wickets at home against Parkfield Liscard, the hosts were asked to bat and bowled out for 169 with Muhammed Nazim claiming 6-47 with the ball.

Jayden Schadendorf 35 and Leo McCarthy 26 top scored with the bat.

In reply, Robert Courtney hit an unbeaten 91* and Mike Keogh 36 as the visitors strolled to victory on 171-2.

This weekend's local LDCC fixture's (1pm): Bootle v Lytham, Colwyn Bay v Formby, Northern v Wallasey, Rainford v Ormskirk, Ainsdale v Fleetwood Hesketh, Birkenhead Park v Southport & Birkdale, Burscough v Newton le Willows, Caldy v Maghull, Spring View v Hightown St Mary's. Southport Trinity have no match due to Skelmersdale dropping out of the league.

Moore strikes twice for Skem

Skelmersdale United 2
Airbus UK 1

DAVE Moore scored twice for Skelmersdale as they recorded an impressive friendly victory over Welsh Premier League side Airbus UK Broughton, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

A good crowd was attracted to the JMO and they were treated to an entertaining first-half.

Both sides went close to scoring but as the half progressed Skelmersdale got on top, bringing a couple of good saves out of the away goalkeeper before hitting the crossbar.

In the 43rd minute Skelmersdale took the lead. Dave Moore was put away down the right from a sharply taken free-kick and he cut inside before firing a right-foot shot across the goalkeeper into the far corner of the net.

After the interval both sides missed some good chances before Airbus got away down the left hand side in the 61st minute.

The ball was worked to James Hooper, whose his first time shot beat Skem goalkeeper Chris Cheetham at his near-post to make it 1-1.

Skelmersdale's winner arrived in the 77th minute, from the same man Dave Moore. Like his first goal, it was from his right foot and low into the far corner.

Airbus pressed in the last ten minutes for an equaliser, however, Skelmersdale held firm and the win will give them confidence that they are on the right track for next season.

Dave Moore scores his first for Skelmersdale. Picture by John Driscoll

The first league match of the season is not until Saturday, August 18 when Skelmersdale play Leek Town at Prescot.

Their pre-season games were due to continue last night (Tuesday, August 7) when they play Warrington Town, before they finish their preparations with a trip to Hyde United on Saturday, August 11, kick off 3pm.

One real positive that could be drawn from Saturday's game at Blaguegate Lane was the size of the crowd it attracted, showing people are still getting behind the club.

Under strength Burscough lose opening league game

Burscough 1
Hanley Town 2

AN under strength Burscough lost their opening game of the season after conceding a late winner against Hanley Town.

Manager Dave Sutton was without key players Alex Parkes, Josh Dunroe, Prince Ekpolo and Luke Gibson, but for 70 minutes they were the better side.

It was in the 86th minute that the Linnets conceded the winning goal after a Hanley forward reacted first to a rebound in the Burscough penalty area.

It was an even opening to the game with neither team showing too much in the way of attacking intent, but it was Hanley who took the lead in the 17th minute.

A corner was driven in from the left and centre-back Josh Thorpe broke free to smash a header into the Burscough net from about eight yards out.

Going a goal down inspired Burscough rather put their heads down and until half-time they were the better team.

It was worth the wait for Burscough's equaliser because it was a wonderfully crafted goal in the 38th minute.

Gary Grier put an angled ball out to the left-wing, where it found Cummings who had swapped sides. The number seven cut in and played a sharp low ball into the goalmouth, Whyte ran onto it and side-footed the ball low into the net.

The Linnets had the best chance on the hour. Ward crashed the ball against the Crab Tree Lane End crossbar and Brady pounced onto the loose ball.

He was clumsily tackled from behind by Thorpe and a penalty was given. With Burscough's regular spot-kicker Parkes absent, Whyte took on the responsibility, but his attempt went straight at goalkeeper Wyatt and it remained level.

Hanley won a penalty on 77 minutes for a John Branagan foul on Callum Tunstall. Hanley's number nine Kieron Ball went one worse than Whyte by blazing the spot-kick well wide of the post.

The visitors began to get on top in the last ten minutes, but Burscough looked comfortable with Brady having a tremendous game in the centre, having been trusted with the number five shirt.

In the end you had to feel sorry for Burscough after 86 minutes when Hanley snatched victory. Tunstall turned and shot and his effort thundered against the crossbar, the rebound dropped to Thorpe, who doubled his total with a header into the net to make it 1-2.

Burscough face 1874 Northwich in the FA Cup on Saturday at Victoria Park.

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